

## C. MINOR KEYS

Minor scales have melodic and harmonic forms, so the sixth and seventh notes of the scale can vary. It is the harmonic form of the scale that the chords (the 'harmony') are based on in most cases, so that chords I and IV are minor chords, while chords V and VI are major chords. (The leading note of the scale is the middle note of chord V, and when we raise that note a semitone the chord becomes a major chord.) Chords II and VII are usually diminished chords.

**The middle note of chord V is usually raised, making it a major chord.**

**So chord V in a minor key is the same as chord V in the major key on the same keynote.**

- 1 Here are the chords in the key of A minor in their most common forms.  
Fill in the missing numerals. Remember to write small letters for minor chords.

A musical staff in bass clef showing seven chords. The first chord is i, the second is ii°, the third is III, the fourth is blank, the fifth is #8, the sixth is blank, and the seventh is vii°.

- 2 Write in these chords in G minor. Remember to add accidentals when necessary, both for flats relating to the key signature and for the raised leading note. The first chord has been written in.

A musical staff in bass clef showing five chords. The first chord is i, the second is VI, the third is iv, the fourth is V, and the fifth is ii°.

- 3 Underneath this piece write the numerals of the chords used. First decide which minor key the piece is in.

A musical score in bass clef, 2/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass line consists of chords: G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2, G2-B2-D2.

- 4 Under this melody write the numerals of the chords you would use to harmonise it. Use chords i, ii°, v, V and VI, and have two chords in every bar.

A musical staff in treble clef, 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

- 5 Harmonise this melody in E minor, using chords i, ii°, iv, V and VI. Write the chords in the same simple shape they are in exercises above. You will need to use two chords in every bar except the last one. When using chord V, remember to sharpen the leading note (D) to make a major chord.

A musical staff in treble clef, 2/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: E4, F4, G4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.