

Year 8 Unit 4: BAND SKILLS Knowledge Organiser

Section 1: Major and Minor Chords

Term	Definition
Semitone	The interval (distance) between the two nearest notes on a keyboard e.g. E to F or F to F sharp.
Tone	The interval (distance) between two semitones e.g. C to D.
Major Chord	To construct a major chord you start on the note that is the letter name of the chord (e.g. C for the C chord). Move up 4 semitones to find the second note and 3 more semitones to find the 3rd note of your chord.
Minor Chord	To construct a minor chord you start on the note that is the letter name of the chord (e.g. C for the Cm chord). Move up 3 semitones to find the second note and 4 more semitones to find the 3rd note of your chord.
Sharp	a musical note raised a semitone above natural pitch
Flat	a musical note a semitone below natural pitch

Section 2: Band Instruments

Term	Definition
Lead singer	The “frontline” member of the band who sings most of the melody line to the song
Backing singers	Singers that support the lead singer providing harmony or a countermelody and do not sing all the time.
Drum Kit	A set of drums, cymbals, and other percussion instruments that one person, typically seated, plays with a pair of drumsticks.
Lead Guitar	A prominent guitar part that consists of the melody and solos of a song rather than simply the chord sequences.
Rhythm Guitar	A guitar part consisting of the chord progressions of a song.
Bass Guitar	An electric guitar, usually with four strings, that produces very low notes. It is usually electrical-ly amplified
Acoustic Guitar	An ordinary guitar, which produces its normal sound through the sounding board and is not amplified in any way
Keyboard	A set of keys on a piano or similar musical instrument.

Section 3: Keyboard, Ukulele and Guitar chords

The diagram illustrates the fingerings for six chords across three instruments: Guitar, Ukulele, and Keys. Each chord is represented by a small grid for Guitar and Ukulele, and a piano keyboard for Keys. The notes are color-coded: blue for the root note, red for the second note, and blue for the third note.

- G Major:** Guitar (2nd fret), Ukulele (2nd fret), Keys (G, B, D).
- E Minor:** Guitar (1st fret), Ukulele (1st fret), Keys (E, G, B).
- D Major:** Guitar (2nd fret), Ukulele (2nd fret), Keys (D, F#, A).
- C Major:** Guitar (1st fret), Ukulele (1st fret), Keys (C, E, G).
- A Minor:** Guitar (2nd fret), Ukulele (2nd fret), Keys (A, C, E).
- A Major:** Guitar (2nd fret), Ukulele (2nd fret), Keys (A, C#, E).