2026.M50

2026L067A1EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Music

Composing

Higher Level

Thursday 18 June Afternoon 3:15 - 4:45

100 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth

For example, 3rd February 2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

Instructions

Write your examination number and Date of Birth in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **two** sections in this examination paper.

Section **A**	Melody Composition	40 marks	3 questions
Section **B**	Harmony	60 marks	3 questions

- Answer as follows:

  ◦ one question from Section **A** – Melody Composition

  and

  ◦ one question from Section **B** – Harmony

- Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for staff notation and chord boxes.

- Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work at the end of the booklet. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.

- This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

Section A Melody Composition 40 marks

Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 1 Continuation of a given opening (40 marks)

or

Question 2 Setting music to a given text (40 marks)

or

Question 3 Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form (40 marks)

Question 1 **(40 marks)**

Continuation of a given opening

- Continue the given opening to make a 16-bar melody.
- Include a modulation to the dominant at a suitable point.
- Add appropriate performing directions (phrasing and dynamics) to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

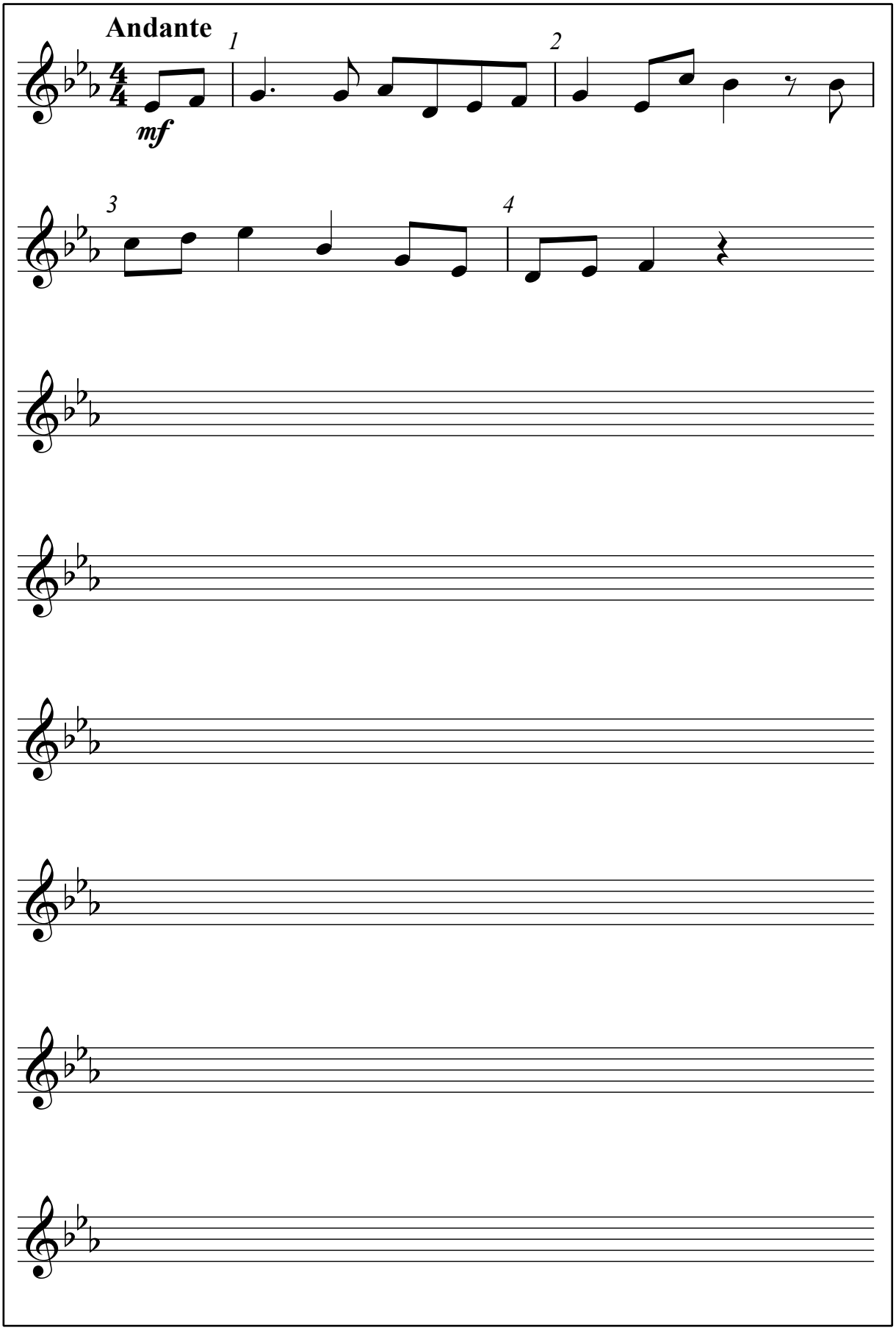
☐ violin

☐ oboe

☐ descant recorder

☐ clarinet

Roughwork


Andante
1
2
mf
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Question 2 **(40 marks)**

Setting music to a given text

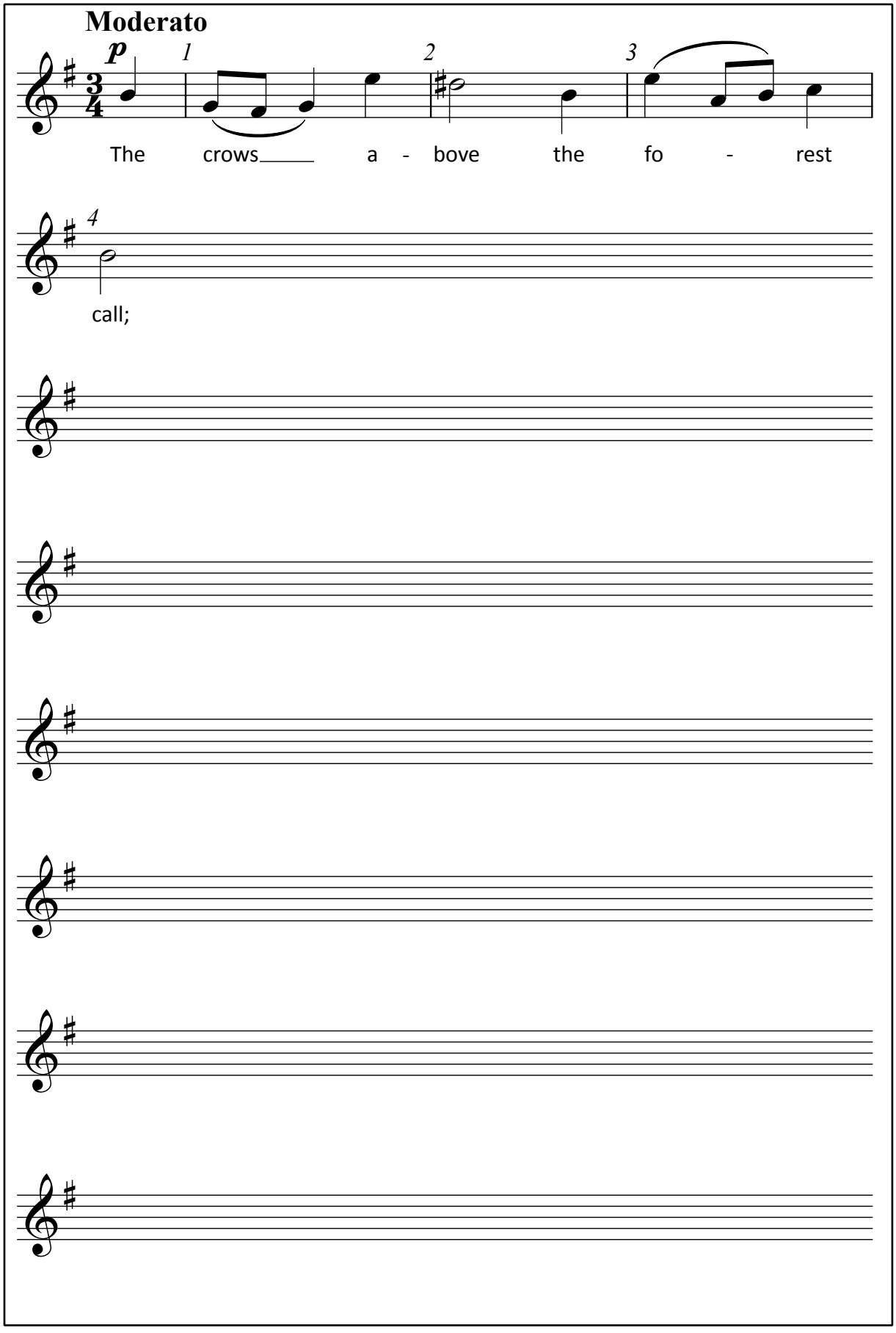
Here is an extract from the poem *October* by Robert Frost.

The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.

The opening line has been set for you.

- Set the remaining words to make a melody of 16 bars.
  (You may exceed this number of bars and include a modulation, if you wish.)
- Add appropriate performing directions (phrasing and dynamics) to the melody.

Roughwork


Moderato
p
1
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The crows a - bove the fo - rest
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call;

Question 3 **(40 marks)**

Composing to a given dance rhythm or metre or form

The opening phrase of a gigue is given.

- Continue the given opening to make a 16-bar melody.
- Use the form AA^1BB^1.
- Add appropriate performing directions (phrasing and dynamics) to the melody.
- Choose a suitable instrument for your melody from the following list:

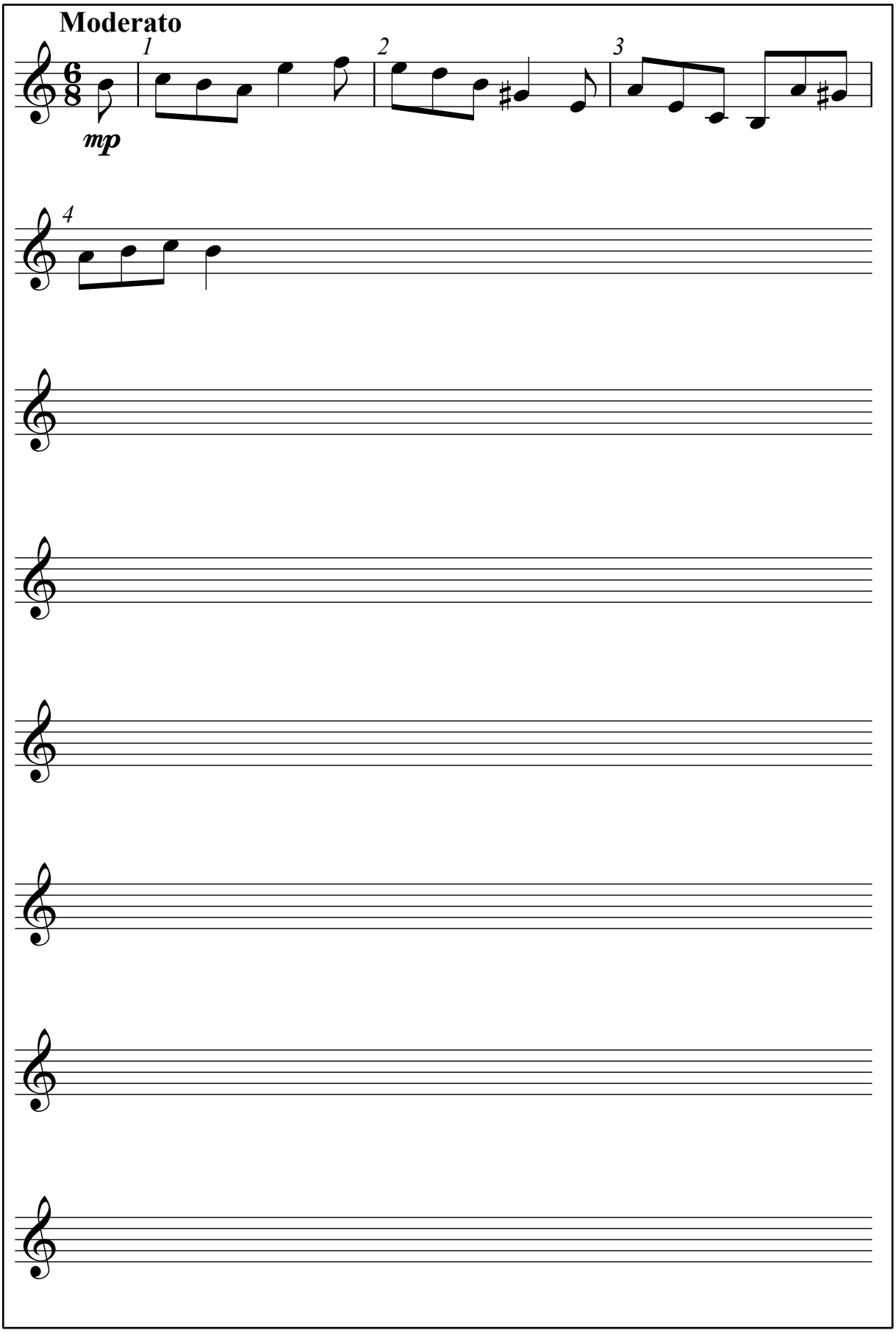
☐ clarinet

☐ violin

☐ trumpet

☐ oboe

Roughwork


Moderato
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mp
4

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Section B — Harmony — 60 marks

Answer **one** question only in this section:

Question 4 Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords (60 marks)

or

Question 5 Composing bass notes and chord indications to a given tune (60 marks)

or

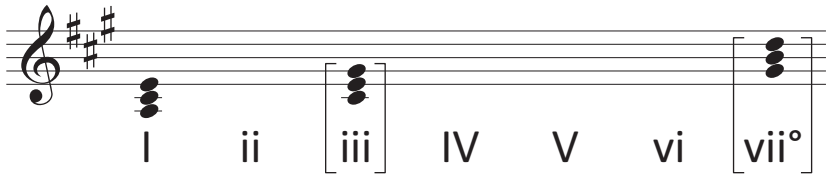
Question 6 Adding a countermelody or descant and chordal support to a given tune (60 marks)

Question 4 **(60 marks)**

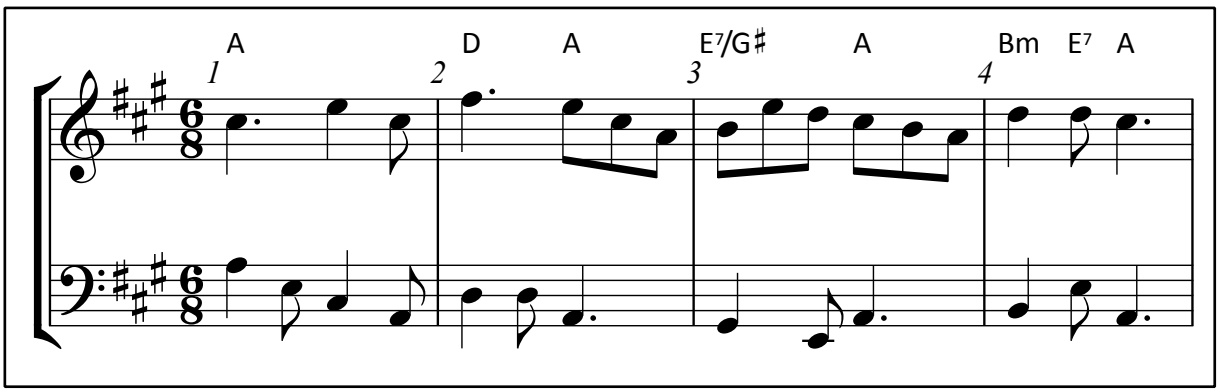
Composing melody and bass notes from a set of chords

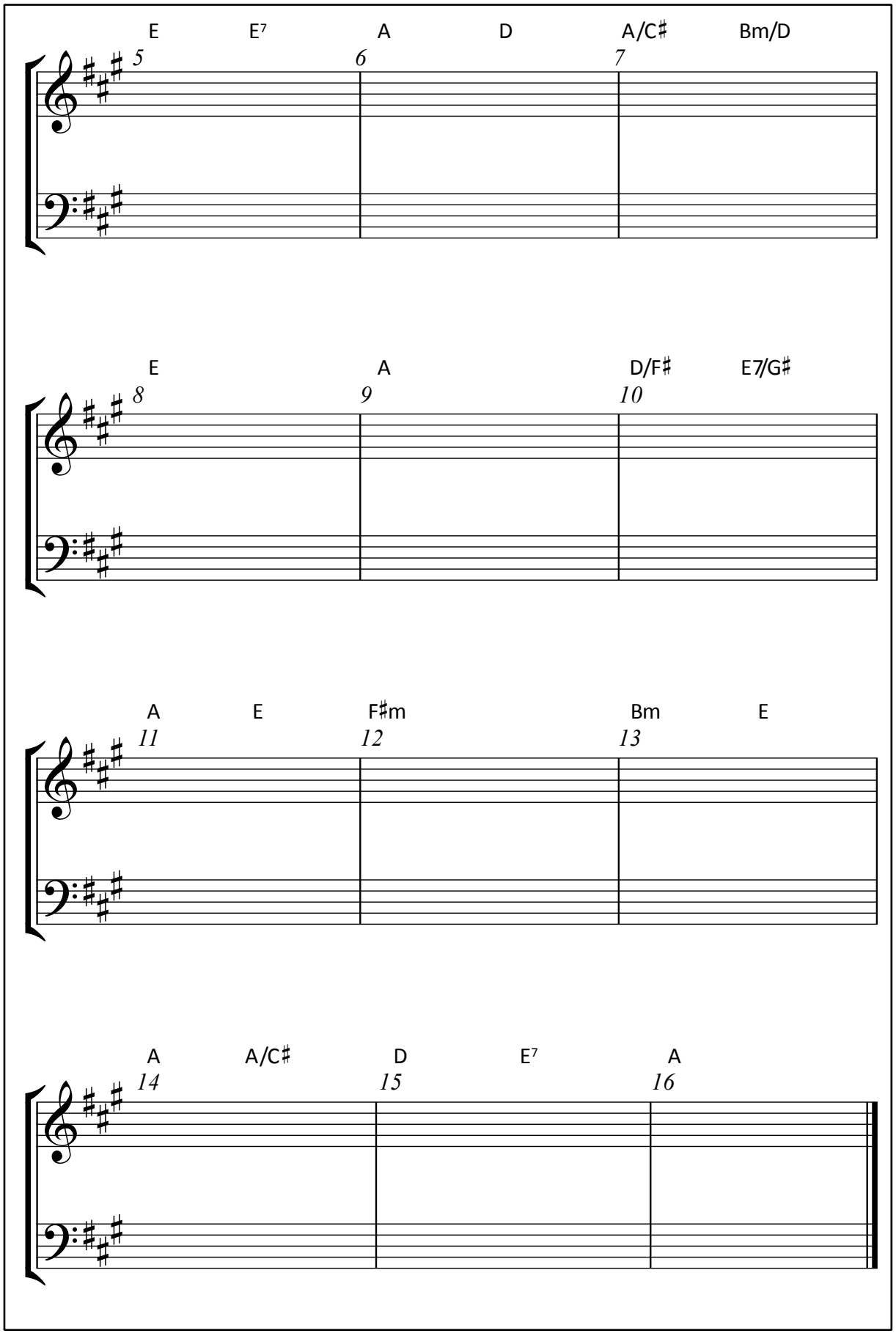
Preparatory work: Plot the chords available in the key of A major, either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below.

Notes of chord	E C♯ A		G♯ E C♯				D B G♯
Chord symbol	A		C♯m				G♯°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



- Study the following piece of music.
- Using the chords indicated, compose melody and bass notes to complete the piece in the given style.



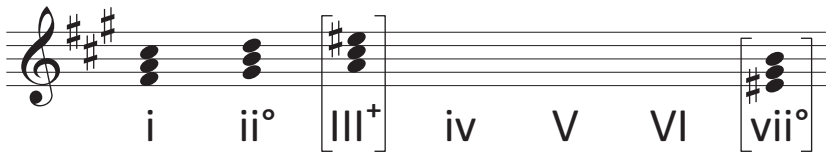

E E7 A D A/C♯ Bm/D
5 6 7
E A D/F♯ E7/G♯
8 9 10
A E F♯m Bm E
11 12 13
A A/C♯ D E7 A
14 15 16

Question 5 **(60 marks)**

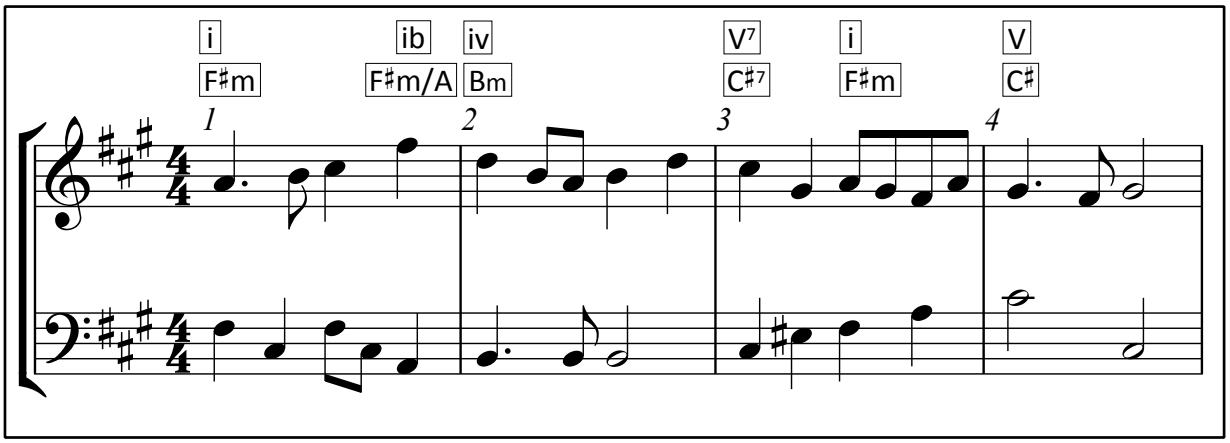
Composing bass notes and chord indications to a given tune

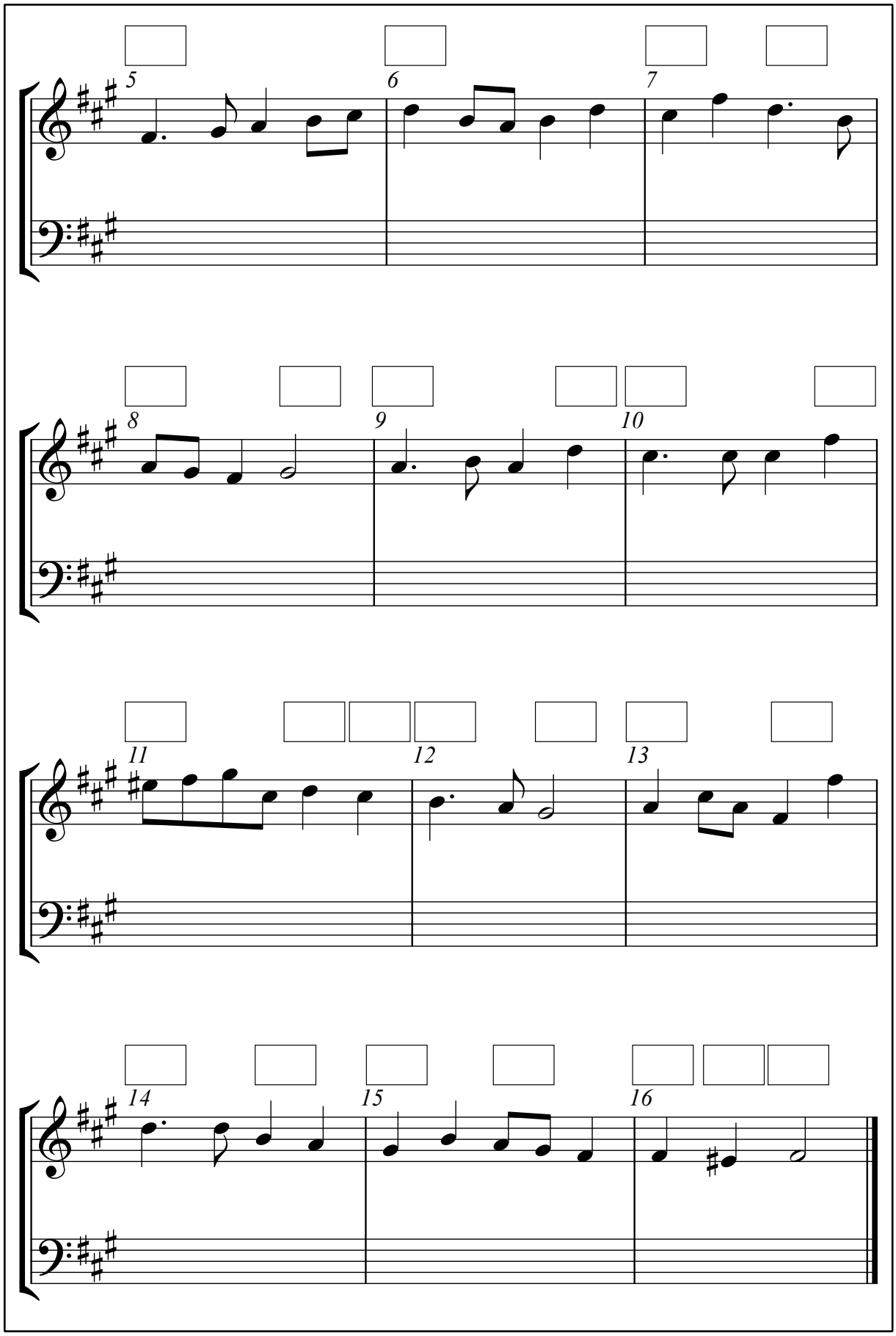
Preparatory work: Plot the chords available in the key of F♯ minor, either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below.

Notes of chord	C♯ A F♯	D B G♯	E♯ C♯ A				B G♯ E♯
Chord symbol	F♯m	G♯°	A⁺				E♯°
Roman numeral	i	ii°	III⁺	iv	V	VI	vii°



- Study the following piece of music.
- Add suitable bass notes and chord indications in the style of the given opening.
- Do not use the same chord in the same position in adjacent boxes.
- You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.

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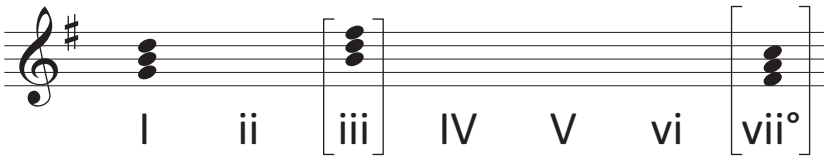
Question 6 **(60 marks)**

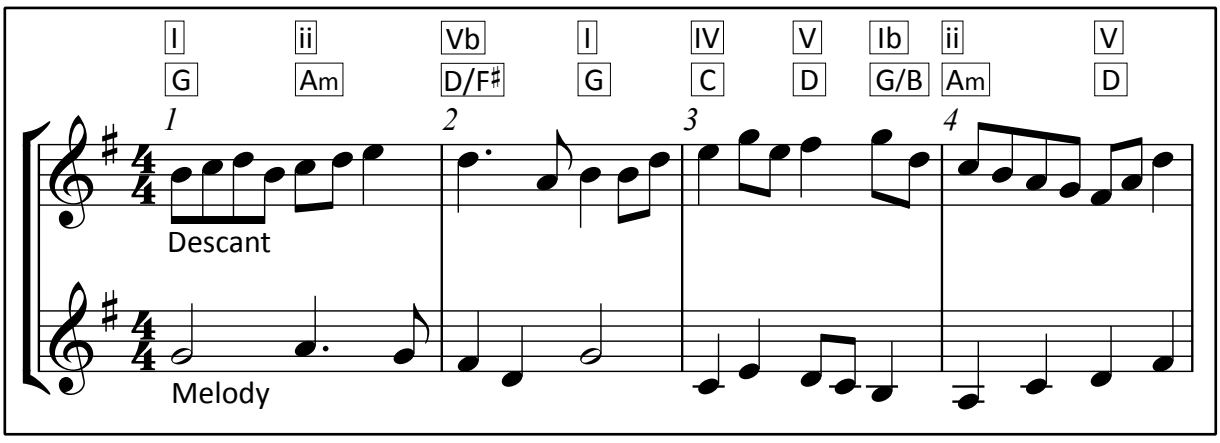
Adding a countermelody or descant and chordal support to a given tune

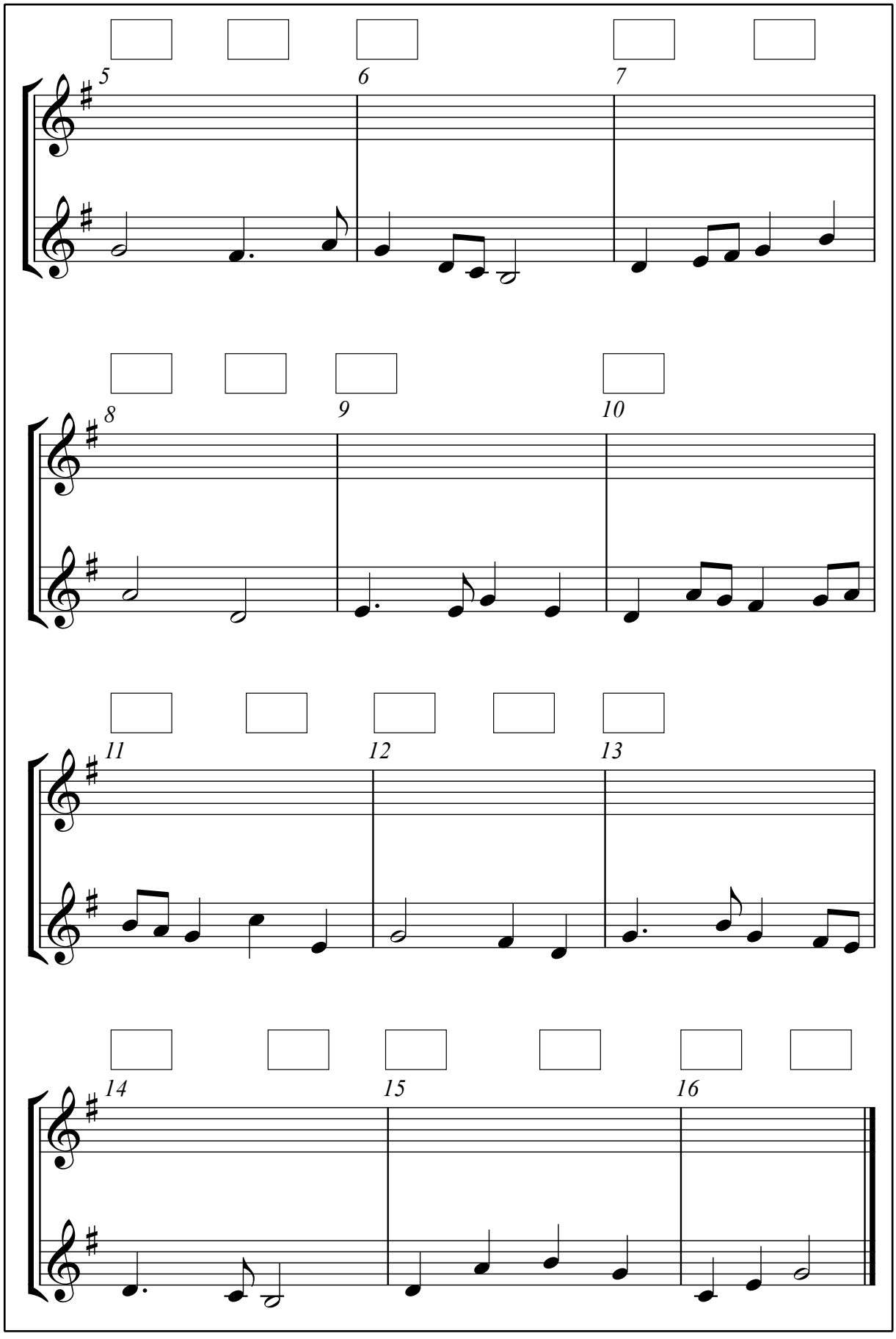
Preparatory work: Plot the chords available in the key of G major, either in the chord bank grid or on the stave below.

Notes of chord	D B G		F♯ D B				C A F♯
Chord symbol	G		Bm				F♯°
Roman numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°



- Study the following piece of music.
- Insert suitable chord indications in the boxes provided.
- Continue the descant part in the given style to complete the piece.
- Do not use the same chord in the same position in adjacent boxes.
- You may use either chord symbols or Roman numerals, but not both.

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Extra work

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