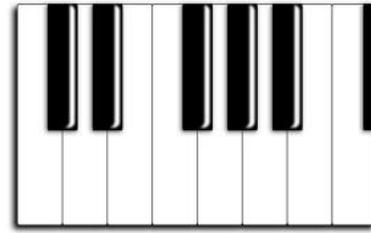


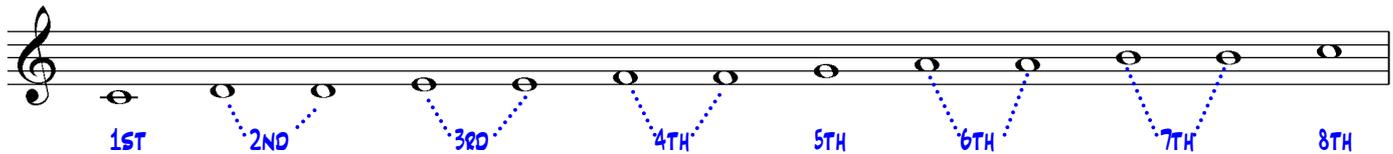
## Chromatic Scales

A Chromatic Scale (*chroma* is Greek for colour) is one which is made up of all twelve semitones in an octave. If you played every note in turn on the picture of a keyboard below you would have played the Chromatic Scale beginning on C. That was brilliant playing!



How can we write this scale down? Unlike Diatonic (major and minor) Scales there is no *one* definitive way of notating a Chromatic Scale. The only rule that we have to remember is that one letter should not be used three times in a row, e.g. D flat - D natural - D sharp. By following the steps outlined here this will not happen though! We shall investigate what is termed the *harmonic chromatic scale* on this sheet.

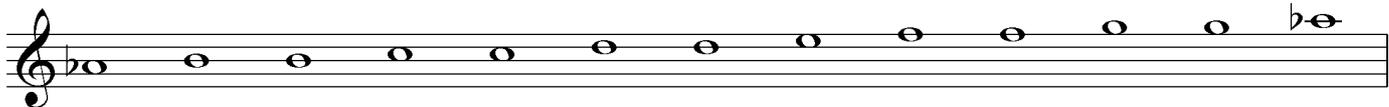
The first step is to draw thirteen notes. The best way to do this is to write the first, "fifth," and last notes down once each and to write all the others down twice. This will act like a skeleton to hang the accidentals on.



Now we can draw the accidentals - there will be a mixture of types. Make sure that each consecutive pair are a semitone apart. You could draw a keyboard in the exam (like the one above) to help. Here is the result:



If the first (and so the last) note has an accidental then it is the same principle as above. Draw the thirteen notes in the same way:



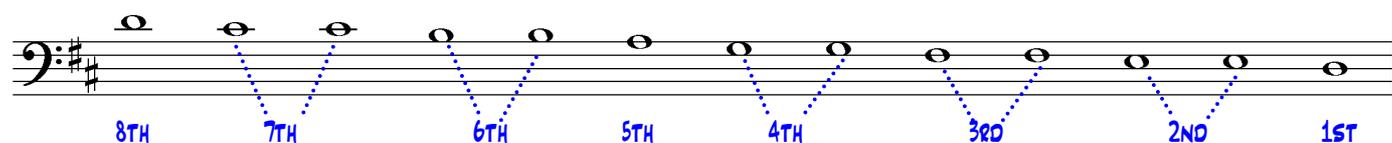
Now add the correct accidentals:



Sometimes a question may ask you to draw a chromatic scale with a given **key signature**. It will look different, but as long as you remember all the flats or sharps in the key signature you will have no problem. The third note needs a flat in front of it (despite the key signature) otherwise it would be played as a B double flat like the second note:



A question may ask you to draw the scale **descending**. You will still need to draw the three single notes as before but with a slight twist. This time start on the right and draw the scale ascending but moving towards the left margin. It will look like it is descending when it is finished of course:



Now moving from left to right, add the necessary accidentals. Note, in this example there is a key signature so no sharp signs are needed for the first C and F.



Let me know if there is anything you don't understand here.