

**AMEB Exam Cheat Sheet** NB: this simply is a practise sheet to help with exam questions and answers.

## Rat Race (Aibhe McDonagh)

What does the title mean?

Rat race is slang for 'a way of life in which people are caught up in a fiercely competitive struggle for wealth or power'. Often more energy is spent on competing than what the reward is actually worth. You can here this struggle and competitiveness through the persistent semiquavers and the circular direction of the chromatic scales.

What key is this in?

Sounds like D minor at the beginning. Uses a lot of chromaticism. At the end, A minor.

Notation:

Vivace - with life/spirit

Metronome marking - around 112 crotchets per minute

$\text{♩} = c. 112$

f - forte - loud

*f*

2/4 - time signature - 2 crotchet beats per bar - simple duple time

$\frac{2}{4}$

Treble clef - notes in higher range are written here

*G*

Bass clef - notes in a lower range are written here

*F*

Stave/staff - the 5 lines and 4 spaces that music is written on

Barlines - divides the music into equal bars

Slurs - play *legato* (smooth and well-connected)

Ledger lines - lines that are added to notes outside the staff

Crescendo - gradually getting louder

*cresc.*

Double bar lines - denotes the end of the piece

Bar numbers - the small numbers found at the beginning of each line

Fingering - numbers below and above the notes to show which fingers to use

Staccato - short and detached touch

p - piano - soft

*p*

Tie - hold the notes for the combined value

8va - play notes 1 octave higher than written

8va - - - - -

Crotchet rest - rest for 1 beat

Quaver rest - rest for 1/2 beat

Whole bar rest - rest for a whole bar

Also need to know the note names (eg ABCDEFG) and rhythmical values (eg crotchets, minims, semibreves, quavers, semiquavers etc).