

TEACHER'S GUIDE

**FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LITERACY,
NUMERACY AND SKILLS**

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

GRADE 8

TITLE OF CARD: TAAL AND NOTATION SYSTEM

TEACHER'S CARD 1

**MOE
MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE
2025**

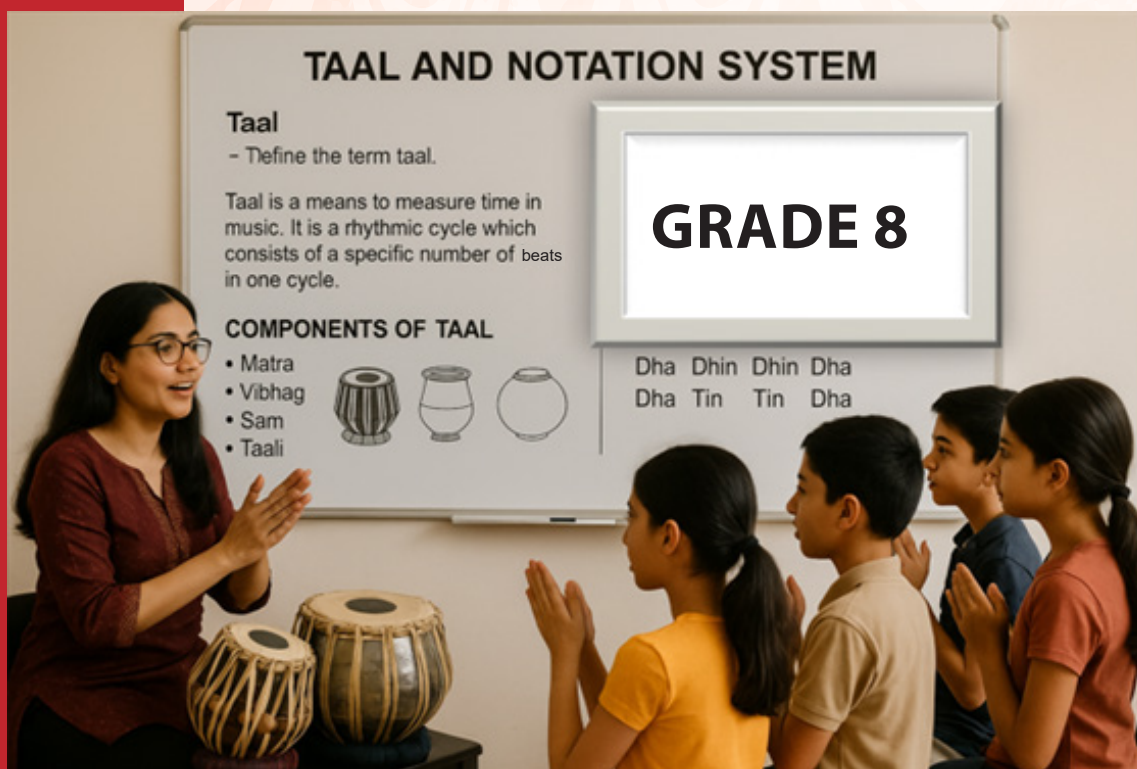


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GUIDE TO EDUCATORS

Title of Card: Taal and Notation System

Competency:

Understanding and application

Element 2:

Notate Taals and musical compositions.

Performance Criteria:

- **Level 2:**
Independently writes correct taal structures and notates short rhythmic or melodic compositions.

Purpose of Activity:

This activity introduces students to taal as a foundational rhythmic system in Indian music. Learners explore its structure and components, develop the ability to read and notate taal accurately, and apply this knowledge through clapping, padhant (recitation), and simple instrumental practice. This process helps students begin to internalise rhythmic patterns, improve coordination, and build confidence in recognising and performing basic taal cycles.

Resources and Materials:

- Visual representation of the components of Taal
- Notation of Taals
- Whiteboard and markers

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Define the term taal.
- Identify and describe its components using correct musical terms.
- Read and notate simple Taal cycles accurately.
- Do padhant of prescribed Taals.

Teaching Trajectories / Implementation Guidelines

Introduction

Taal is a fundamental element of Indian music, providing the rhythmic structure that shapes how musical ideas are organised and performed. Introducing students to the concept of taal helps them understand rhythm as a repeating cycle and recognise how musicians use these patterns to maintain coordination and expression. In this lesson, learners explore what taal means, discover its basic components, and begin applying their understanding through simple notation, clapping exercises, and guided performance activities.

Part 1 - Definition

- Define the term *Taal*.

Taal is a means to measure time in music. It is a rhythmic cycle which consists of a specific number of beats in one cycle.

Some musical instruments used to provide taal in Indian music are shown below:



Tabla



Pakhawaj



Mridangam



Khol



Manjira

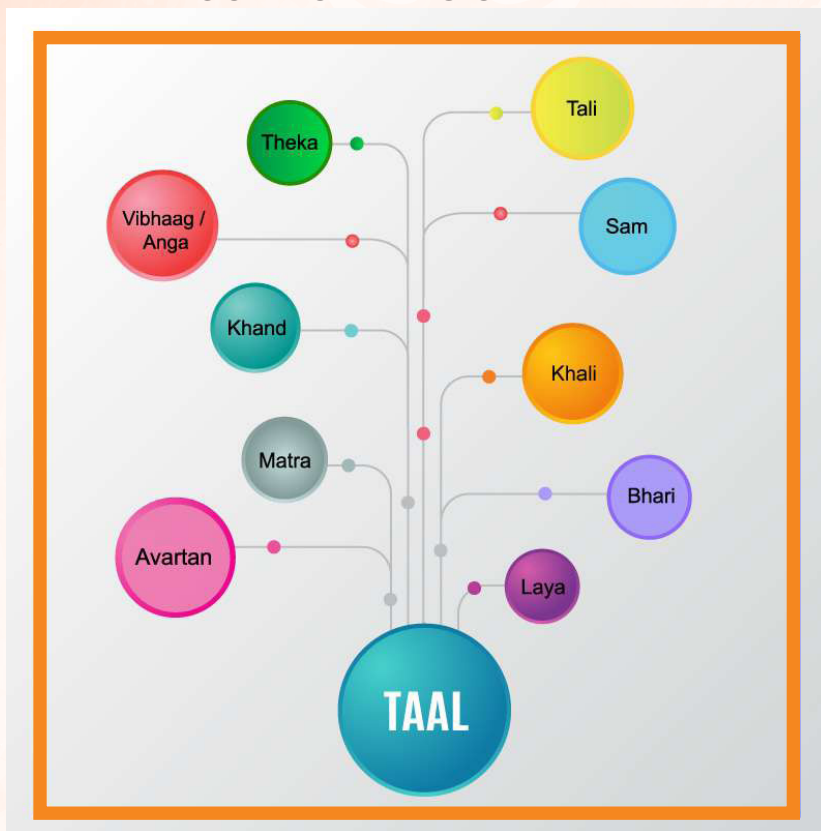
NOTE

Taal can also be provided by the clapping of hands.

Part 2 - Components of Taal

- List and explain each component of Taal.

COMPONENTS OF TAAL



Part 3 - Notation System and Padhant

- Explain Bhatkhande's notation system and interpret the various signs and symbols used within it.

SYMBOL	PURPOSE
X	To denote <i>Sam</i>
0	To denote <i>Khali</i> .
	Line dividing the <i>vibhaag-s</i> (Sections).
∪	Combines two or more syllables in one beat.
2,3,4	To show other accented beats in a taal (<i>Tali</i>).
∫	Known as <i>Avgraha</i> used to show space or pause.

- Notation and Padhant of Dadra Taal, Roopak Taal, Kaherwa Taal and Teentaal.



ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria	Indicators of Achievement
1. Understanding of Taal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correctly defines the term taal. Identifies and describes its components using appropriate musical terminology.
2. Notation Accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independently notates taals (Dadra, Roopak, Kaherwa, Teentaal). Correctly interprets symbols such as sam, taali, khali, vibhag and bol groupings (Ardh Chandra). Applies these symbols accurately in written notation.
3. Padhant (Recitation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performs clear, steady padhant of prescribed Taals in a correct rhythmic cycle. Maintains laya (tempo) and pronounces bols accurately.

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Criteria	Basic	Intermediate	Proficient
1. Understanding of Taal			
Definition of Taal	Incomplete or unclear definition.	Generally correct explanation with minor gaps.	Clearly defines taal as a rhythmic cycle used to measure time in music.
Components of Taal	Lists few components with limited explanation.	Identifies most components with some correct explanations.	Correctly identifies and describes each component using appropriate terminology.
2. Notation Accuracy			
Notation of Taals (Dadra, Roopak, Kaherwa, Teentaal)	Too many mistakes in the notation.	Minor errors	Accurate, independent notation with correct matras, vibhags, Taal signs and bol groupings.

Criteria	Basic	Intermediate	Proficient
3. Padhant (Recitation)			
Padhant Accuracy	Unclear or inconsistent; loses the cycle.	Correct with minor slips.	Clear, steady padhant of rhythmic cycles.
Laya & Pronunciation	Struggles with tempo and pronunciation.	Mostly steady laya; generally clear pronunciation.	Maintains steady laya with accurate bol pronunciation.



ACTIVITY 1

MATCHING

1. Match each padhant action to its correct hand and finger movement.



1ST FINGER COUNT

SAM

KHALI

2ND FINGER COUNT

3RD FINGER COUNT



ACTIVITY 2

WORD SEARCH

2. Find the words given in brackets in the grid below:

(avartan, matra, khand, vibhaag, theka, tali, sam, khali, bhari, laya)

a	f	d	r	n	i	m	t	t	z
f	b	n	w	q	f	b	h	d	b
b	m	j	g	t	j	k	e	b	b
t	h	n	a	m	k	k	k	h	q
b	k	n	v	i	b	h	a	a	g
h	h	n	a	j	m	a	w	r	t
m	a	t	r	a	g	l	k	i	n
h	n	o	t	a	l	i	p	k	m
n	d	s	a	m	a	j	m	k	r
t	h	n	n	l	ȳ	k	g	ȳ	e
a	g	o	l	r	a	r	o	l	n



ACTIVITY 3

DO YOU REMEMBER

3. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate number in column B.

A	B
TAAL	NUMBER OF BEATS
TEENTAAL	
ROOPAK	
DADRA	
KAHERWA	



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