Music Staff & Guitar Tab Paper: Paired Systems for Notation and Fingering

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

One 4/4 measure has four quarter notes on the treble staff: E, F, G, A above middle C. Write tab numbers using both the high E and B strings in standard tuning, using each string at least once. State each string and fret, and give the count check.

Answer: E above middle C as open high E string, F above middle C as first fret of the high E string, G above middle C as third fret of the high E string, A above middle C as tenth fret of the B string. Count check: four staff notes and four tab numbers.

Reason: Each pitch is mapped to a playable string and fret. On the high E string, open is E4, fret 1 is F4, and fret 3 is G4. A4 is placed on the B string at fret 10, since open B is B3 and ten semitones above B3 is A4; this satisfies the requirement to use both the high E and B strings at least once. A valid alternative is A4 as the fifth fret of the high E string, but that would leave the B string unused and fail the prompt's constraint. The count check confirms one tab number per staff note.

Check: Use a ruler to confirm each tab number is vertically under its staff note, then count staff notes and tab numbers in the measure. Verify the fret arithmetic on the high E string: open is E4, fret 1 is F4, fret 3 is G4, fret 5 is A4. If the B string is used for A4, confirm it is written as fret 10 on the B line, since open B is B3 and ten semitones above B3 is A4.

Task 2

A measure contains a two-note chord on the staff: middle C and E above middle C, each a half note. Write two stacked tab numbers on the correct lines using standard tuning. State the string order and count check.

Answer: Middle C as the first fret of the B string, E above middle C as the open high E string. Stack the numbers on the B and high E tab lines. String order top to bottom: high E, B, G, D, A, low E. Count check: two staff pitches and two tab numbers.

Reason: A chord requires simultaneous pitches, so the tab numbers are stacked vertically on different string lines. Middle C (C4) is the first fret of the B string (B3 plus one semitone equals C4); the fifth fret of the G string is a valid alternative. E above middle C (E4) is the open high E string; the fifth fret of the B string is a valid alternative. The chosen voicing places C4 on the B string and E4 on the high E string, so the higher pitch sits on the higher string and the chord is playable. The count check counts each string number separately.

Check: Confirm the two tab numbers are on different lines and vertically aligned with the chord, then count two staff pitches and two tab numbers. Verify the fret arithmetic: B string open is B3, so fret 1 is C4; high E string open is E4.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Write a one-measure rhythm of four quarter notes on the staff using only the pitch B above middle C, repeated four times. Choose one tab fingering and repeat it four times. Explain why an alternative fingering is also valid.

Answer: Staff: four quarter notes on B above middle C. Tab: twelfth fret of the B string repeated four times. Alternative: B above middle C can also be played as the seventh fret of the high E string, which is valid if the hand position suits the phrase. Count check: four staff notes and four tab numbers.

Reason: The same pitch can be played on different strings, so the tab is a fingering choice rather than a unique answer. B above middle C (B4) on the B string is the twelfth fret, since open B is B3 and twelve semitones above B3 is B4. Repeating one fingering keeps the measure consistent.

Check: Count four staff notes and four tab numbers, and confirm the chosen fingering is stated once and used consistently. Verify the fret arithmetic: open B string is B3, so fret 12 is B4; open high E is E4, so fret 7 is B4.

Task 4

A system has two measures. Measure one has three quarter notes: D, E, F in the octave starting at the open D string (D3, E3, F3). Measure two has one half note on G3, the open G string. Write tab numbers for all notes using standard tuning, add bar lines through both staves, and give the count check per measure.

Answer: Measure one: D3 as open D string, E3 as second fret of the D string, F3 as third fret of the D string. Measure two: G3 as open G string, written as a half note. Bar lines cross both staves at the measure boundaries. Count check: measure one has three staff notes and three tab numbers; measure two has one staff note and one tab number.

Reason: The prompt names pitches in the octave starting at the open D string, so each tab fingering matches the stated pitch: open D is D3, fret 2 of the D string is E3, fret 3 of the D string is F3, and open G is G3. Each measure is checked separately so mismatches are easy to find. Bar lines through both staves keep the time axis aligned.

Check: Verify the fret arithmetic: open D string is D3, fret 2 is E3, fret 3 is F3, and open G string is G3. Count notes and tab numbers in each measure separately, and use a ruler to confirm bar lines cross both staves at the same horizontal position.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Staff notes are on the five-line staff and tab numbers are on the six-line tab, with no mixing.
- [ ] Tab string order is stated or follows the conventional top-to-bottom order.
- [ ] Each tab number aligns vertically with its staff note within a stated tolerance measured on the actual sheet.
- [ ] Note count and tab number count match per measure.
- [ ] Handwriting is legible and number x-height is consistent from baseline to midline; valid style alternatives are accepted.
- [ ] Fingering choices are stated and used consistently, with valid alternatives allowed.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?