

Year 4 Music Assessment: Understanding Musical Notation

Learning objective: To identify, interpret, and apply knowledge of staff notation, rhythm, and musical symbols.

Read each question carefully. Use the provided word bank to help you with your answers. Ensure your written responses are clear and use accurate musical terminology.

Max the monkey is helping his friends organise their sheet music for the forest concert. He notices that the music is written on a set of five horizontal lines. Each note has a different shape to show how long it lasts, and there are special marks that tell the musicians when to play and when to stay silent. Nova the owl is busy checking the speed of the music to make sure everyone plays together in time.

Word bank: Treble clef · Stave · Minim · Crotchet · Quaver · Bar line · Tempo · Rest

1. Identify the name of the five horizontal lines upon which musical notes are written. (1 mark)

2. Max sees a symbol at the start of the music that looks like a fancy 'G'. What is this symbol called? (1 mark)

3. Name the note that is worth 1 beat and describe one feature of how it is drawn. (2 marks)

4. Explain the difference between a 'minim' and a 'quaver' in terms of their duration (how many beats they last). (3 marks)

5. Nova mentions the 'tempo' of the music. Define what tempo means in music and explain why it is important for a group playing together. (4 marks)

6. If a piece of music has a 4/4 time signature, explain what a 'bar line' does within that piece of music. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are composing a short piece of music for Pip the caterpillar. Write a short paragraph describing how you would use different note lengths (crotchets, minims, and rests) to create a rhythm that sounds like a caterpillar crawling. Explain why you chose those specific symbols. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, draw one stave (five lines). On your stave, draw a treble clef, one minim, two crotchets, and one quaver. Label each of the notes correctly.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research what a 'semibreve' is and write down how many beats it is worth compared to a crotchet.