

Music Assessment: Understanding Tempo

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and apply different tempos in music using appropriate terminology.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you choose the correct musical terms. Max the monkey is excited to see how you solve these musical puzzles!

Max the monkey is listening to a piece of music in the forest. He taps his foot to the steady beat. The music starts slowly, like a giant elephant walking through the trees. Suddenly, the music gets much faster, like a quick-thinking fox darting through the grass. Finally, the music slows down until it stops completely.

Word bank: Tempo · BPM · Largo · Presto · Moderato · Pulse · Accelerando · Ritardando

1. Define the word 'Tempo' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. If a piece of music is played at a very fast speed, which Italian term from the word bank would you use to describe it? (2 marks)

3. What does the abbreviation 'BPM' stand for in music, and why is it useful for musicians? (3 marks)

4. Explain the difference between 'Accelerando' and 'Ritardando'. (4 marks)

5. Max is composing a song about a calm river and a rushing waterfall. Describe how he should change the tempo to reflect these two different scenes. (4 marks)

6. Identify which term describes a 'moderate' or 'medium' walking pace. (2 marks)

7. Imagine you are conducting an orchestra. Write a short paragraph (5 marks) explaining why it is important to keep a consistent tempo and what happens if the tempo becomes unstable. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a musical symbol or a character (like Pip or Max) to represent 'Largo' (very slow) on one side of the page, and 'Presto' (very fast) on the other side.



Extension challenge: Total: /25