

Max's Musical Maths: Mastering Rhythm

Learning objective: To understand and apply musical notation by matching note values to their correct beat counts in a 4/4 time signature.

Max the monkey loves to treat music like a maths puzzle! Look at the 'Word Bank' to see the names of the musical notes and their values. Your task is to solve the rhythm equations below by filling in the blanks. Each bar must add up to 4 beats in total. Use the note values provided: Semibreve = 4 beats, Minim = 2 beats, Crotchet = 1 beat, Quaver = 0.5 beats.

Word bank: Semibreve (4 beats) · Minim (2 beats) · Crotchet (1 beat) · Quaver (0.5 beats)

1. Equation 1: 1 Minim + 1 Crotchet + ? = 4 beats. Which note do you need to complete the bar? (2 marks)

2. Equation 2: 1 Crotchet + 1 Crotchet + 1 Crotchet + ? = 4 beats. Which note completes this bar? (2 marks)

3. Equation 3: 2 Minims = ? beats in total. Show your working out. (2 marks)

4. Equation 4: If you have 4 Quavers, how many beats do they equal in total? (2 marks)

5. Equation 5: Create your own 4-beat rhythm bar using a mix of Crotchets and Minims. Write your answer as an equation. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a set of musical staves (five lines) and sketch a 'rhythm melody' using the notes you used in Equation 5. Add a treble clef at the start to make it look professional!



Extension challenge: Imagine a piece of music costs £5.00 to perform. If each beat is worth 25p, how many beats are in the whole piece of music? Show your calculation.