

Max and Zara's Musical Masterpiece

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and compare the interrelated dimensions of music: pitch, duration, tempo, dynamics, and texture.

Read each question carefully and apply your knowledge of musical elements to solve these puzzles. Max is looking for patterns, while Zara is looking for the 'colour' of the sound.

Word bank: Pitch · Tempo · Dynamics · Duration · Texture · Crescendo · Staccato · Legato · Pulse · Rhythm

1. Max is composing a piece of music to represent a monkey jumping quickly through trees, followed by a slow, heavy elephant walk. Compare how the 'tempo' would change between these two sections and explain the effect it has on the listener. (3 marks)

2. Zara is painting a picture based on a piece of music. The music starts as a whisper and gradually gets louder until it reaches a roaring climax. What musical term describes this gradual increase in volume? Justify why a composer might use this technique. (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between 'pitch' and 'duration'. If a note has a high pitch but a very short duration, how would it sound compared to a note with a high pitch and a long duration? (3 marks)

4. If a piece of music has a 'thick' texture, what does this tell you about the number of instruments or voices playing at the same time? Use musical vocabulary to support your answer. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the 'mood' of a piece of music if you suddenly changed the dynamics from 'fortissimo' (very loud) to 'pianissimo' (very quiet)? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of a piece of music that moves from a 'staccato' (short, detached) rhythm to a 'legato' (smooth, connected) melody. Use colours and shapes to show the difference in the 'texture' of the sounds.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an orchestral conductor. Write a short paragraph describing how you would use 'dynamics' and 'tempo' to tell a story through music without using any words. How would you justify your choice of tempo to make the audience feel excitement versus sadness?