Max’s Musical Tempo Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and identify different musical tempos and their Italian terminology.

Help Max the monkey sort out his musical puzzle! Read each question carefully and circle the best answer. Remember, tempo is the speed at which a piece of music is played.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Largo, 4.B, 5.False, 6.Presto, 7.A, 8.True, 9.Andante, 10.B. Note: BPM stands for Beats Per Minute.

Word bank: Largo · Adagio · Andante · Allegro · Presto · BPM · Metronome · Pulse

1. 1. Max is listening to a very fast piece of music. Which term describes this speed? A) Largo B) Adagio C) Allegro* D) Grave (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: 'Tempo' is the Italian word for time and refers to the speed of the beat. (1 mark)

3. 3. If a song is played 'very slowly and broadly', which Italian term is used? (Write one word) (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the name of the device musicians use to keep a steady tempo? A) Tuner B) Metronome* C) Amplifier D) Compass (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: 'Andante' means the music should be played as fast as a racing car. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which term describes the fastest tempo of all, often meaning 'very quick'? (Write one word) (1 mark)

7. 7. If you see 'BPM' on a piece of music, what does it stand for? A) Beats Per Minute* B) Bars Per Measure C) Big Percussion Music D) Basic Play Mode (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: A piece of music can change its tempo halfway through. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which tempo describes a 'walking pace'? (Write one word) (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these is a slow, relaxed tempo? A) Presto B) Adagio* C) Allegro D) Vivace (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of a metronome sitting on a piano. Next to it, draw Max the monkey tapping his foot to show he is keeping the beat.

Extension challenge: Choose your favourite song and try to clap along to the pulse. Do you think it is Allegro (fast) or Adagio (slow)? Write down why you think the composer chose that tempo for the song.