

Year 5 Music Assessment: The World of Composers

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of musical composition, the roles of composers, and the historical context of musical elements.

Read each question carefully. Use your musical vocabulary to provide detailed answers. Ensure your spelling is accurate.

A composer is an artist who writes music. Throughout history, composers have used various tools to share their ideas. Before the invention of modern recording technology, composers relied entirely on musical notation—symbols written on a staff—to ensure their music could be played exactly as they intended by an orchestra or a soloist. From the steady, calm beats of a Baroque piece to the fast, exciting energy of a film score, composers carefully choose elements like tempo and dynamics to tell a story through sound.

Word bank: Orchestra · Tempo · Dynamics · Melody · Notation · Harmony · Rhythm · Structure · Instrumental · Composition

1. Define what a 'composer' does. Why is musical notation important for a composer? (2 marks)

2. Name two elements of music that a composer might change to make a piece sound more exciting or dramatic. (2 marks)

3. If Max the monkey were composing a piece about a busy jungle, which musical tempo would he choose and why? (3 marks)

4. Explain the difference between 'dynamics' and 'tempo' in a piece of music. (4 marks)

5. Imagine you are writing a piece of music to describe a thunderstorm. Describe how you would use different instruments and dynamics to represent the storm starting, reaching its peak, and fading away. (5 marks)

6. Identify one way that modern composers differ from composers who lived 300 years ago. (2 marks)

7. Why might a composer choose to use a minor key instead of a major key in their composition? (2 marks)

8. If a sheet of music cost £4.50 to print, and Zara the zebra bought 3 sheets for her art class, how much did she spend in total? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a graphic score for a short piece of music. Use shapes, lines, and colours to show when the music is loud, quiet, fast, or slow.

Extension challenge: Research a composer from the past 200 years. Write a short paragraph explaining what kind of stories their music tells. Total: /25