

Max's Musical Masterpiece Quiz

Learning objective: To understand the fundamental elements of music composition, including rhythm, tempo, dynamics, and structure.

Max the monkey is busy composing a new symphony for the forest orchestra! Help him solve these musical puzzles by answering the questions below. Think carefully about how sounds are built and arranged.

1. C (Rhythm); 2. True; 3. Tempo; 4. B (Dynamics); 5. False; 6. A (Ostinato); 7. Pitch; 8. C (A gradual increase in volume); 9. True; 10. A (A B A).

Word bank: Tempo · Dynamics · Rhythm · Ostinato · Pitch · Composition · Crescendo · Diminuendo

1. 1. What do we call the pattern of long and short sounds in a piece of music? A) Pitch, B) Tempo, C) Rhythm*, D) Melody. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: 'Tempo' refers to the speed of the music, whether it is fast or slow. (1 mark)

3. 3. If Max wants his music to sound faster, which element must he change? (One-word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. Which term describes how loud or quiet the music is? A) Texture, B) Dynamics*, C) Duration, D) Silence. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: A 'crescendo' means the music is getting quieter. (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the name for a short, repeated musical pattern? A) Ostinato*, B) Staccato, C) Legato, D) Solo. (1 mark)

7. 7. If you move from a low note to a high note, you are changing the _____ of the sound. (One-word answer) (1 mark)

8. 8. What does a 'crescendo' look like on a score? A) A sudden jump, B) A fading line, C) A gradual increase in volume*, D) A flat line. (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: In a composition, the 'structure' is the way the different sections of the music are arranged. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these is a common structure for a piece of music? A) A B A*, B) 1 2 3, C) Fast Slow Fast, D) Loud Quiet Loud. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'sound map' for a forest storm. Use squiggly lines for the wind, dots for the rain, and bold shapes for the thunder. Label your symbols to show where the dynamics are loud or quiet.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a composer might choose to use a 'diminuendo' at the end of a piece. 2. Compare and contrast a steady, rhythmic beat with a free-flowing, improvised melody. 3. Justify why an ostinato is often used as a foundation for a song. 4. What might happen if a piece of music had no changes in tempo or dynamics? 5. If you were composing a piece about a sunrise, which musical elements would you use to represent the light growing stronger? 6. Propose a new 3-part structure for a song about a busy market and explain your choices.