

Year 4 Music Assessment: Exploring Musical Elements

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of tempo, dynamics, pitch, and texture in musical composition.

Read each question carefully. Use your musical vocabulary to provide detailed answers. Remember to use British English spellings.

Max the monkey is organising a jungle concert. He wants to ensure the rhythm is steady and the sound layers are interesting. Pip the caterpillar is helping him write the programme, while Zara the zebra is designing the stage to reflect the mood of the music.

Word bank: Tempo · Dynamics · Pitch · Texture · Crescendo · Diminuendo · Allegro · Largo · Staccato · Legato

1. Define the term 'Dynamics' and explain how a composer might use a 'crescendo' to build excitement in a piece of music. (3 marks)

2. If Max chooses a piece of music with a very fast 'Allegro' tempo, how would this affect the physical movement of the audience? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'Staccato' and 'Legato'. Describe the sound each makes and provide an example of when you might hear them. (4 marks)

4. Explain why 'Texture' is important in an orchestral piece. What might happen to the music if every instrument played the exact same note at the same time? (4 marks)

5. Zara is designing a backdrop for a song that starts with a 'Largo' tempo and ends with a 'crescendo'. Describe what the backdrop might look like and explain how the visual art reflects the changing musical elements. (5 marks)

6. If you were composing a piece to represent a thunderstorm, which two musical elements would you prioritise to make it sound realistic? Explain your reasoning. (6 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of a 'Crescendo'. Use lines, shapes, and colours to show how the sound grows from quiet to loud.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a music critic. Write a short review (100 words) of a concert featuring the characters. Use at least five words from the word bank in your review to describe the performance. Total: /25