

Year 4 Music Assessment: The Art of Singing

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of vocal techniques, musical expression, and the terminology used to describe singing.

Read each question carefully. Use your musical vocabulary to provide detailed answers. Ensure your explanations are clear and use correct terminology.

Max the monkey is leading the Year 4 choir in a performance. He reminds everyone that singing is not just about making noise; it is about using the body as an instrument. To sing beautifully, the choir must stand tall, breathe deeply from the diaphragm, and pay close attention to the conductor's signals regarding how loud or soft the music should be.

Word bank: Pitch · Dynamics · Tempo · Posture · Articulation · Breath control · Unison · Harmony · Phrasing · Projection

1. Explain why good posture is essential for a singer. How does it affect your breath control? (3 marks)

2. Define the term 'Dynamics' in music. Give one example of how a choir might change their dynamics during a song. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'singing in unison' and 'singing in harmony'. Which do you find more challenging and why? (4 marks)

4. What is 'articulation' and why is it important when singing lyrics in a foreign language? (3 marks)

5. If a song is marked as 'Allegro' (fast) and 'Forte' (loud), describe how the singer should prepare their body and voice to perform this section effectively. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are the conductor of a choir. You are preparing a piece that starts as a quiet, slow lullaby and builds into a loud, energetic anthem. Justify the vocal techniques your choir should use to ensure the audience feels the change in emotion. How would you use your hands to communicate these changes? (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a singer showing the correct standing posture. Label the parts of the body that help with breath support, such as the lungs and the diaphragm.



Extension challenge: Consider the impact of the room's acoustics. What might happen if a choir sings in a room with hard, stone walls versus a room filled with soft curtains and carpets? Justify your answer based on how sound waves travel. Total: /25