

Grade 4 Music: The Art of Composition

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of musical elements, structure, and the process of composing original pieces.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you express your musical ideas clearly. Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

Max the monkey is composing a new song for the jungle choir. He wants to create a piece that starts quietly and builds up to a loud, exciting finish. He is using a repeating rhythmic pattern on the drums and wants the melody to sound smooth and flowing before he adds sharp, short notes at the end.

Word bank: Tempo · Dynamics · Rhythm · Pitch · Texture · Structure · Ostinato · Crescendo · Staccato · Legato

1. Max wants his song to start quietly and get louder. What is the musical term for a gradual increase in volume? (1 mark)

2. Explain the difference between 'staccato' and 'legato' notes. How might a composer use these differently to change the mood of a piece? (3 marks)

3. If Max repeats a short musical pattern throughout his song, what is this repeating pattern called? (1 mark)

4. Define 'tempo' and describe how changing the tempo from fast to slow would affect the way an audience listens to a piece of music. (4 marks)

5. Nova the owl is helping Max with the song's structure. Why is it important for a composer to plan the 'structure' (such as Verse-Chorus-Verse) before performing the music? (3 marks)

6. Identify two musical elements you could change to make a piece of music sound more 'mysterious' or 'spooky'. Explain why those changes create that effect. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are composing a piece of music to represent a stormy day. Write a 5-mark extended response describing your composition. Include how you would use dynamics, tempo, and texture to paint a picture of the storm for your listeners. (5 marks)

8. If Max buys a new drum for £12.50 and a set of shakers for £4.75, what is the total cost of his new instruments? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a graphic score for a 4-beat rhythm. Use symbols or shapes to represent high-pitched sounds and low-pitched sounds.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Choose a piece of music you know. Write down its structure and describe how the texture changes from the beginning to the end.