

Grade 4 Music: Exploring Musical Elements Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music, including tempo, dynamics, pitch, texture, and timbre.

Read each question carefully and write your answers in the spaces provided. Ensure you use musical vocabulary where appropriate. This assessment is worth 25 marks in total.

Max the monkey is listening to a piece of orchestral music. He notices that the music starts very quietly and slowly, but then it gets louder and faster as more instruments join in. He wonders how the different layers of sound fit together to create the final piece.

Word bank: Tempo · Dynamics · Pitch · Texture · Timbre · Crescendo · Diminuendo · Staccato · Legato · Pulse

1. 1. Define the term 'Tempo' in your own words. Why is it important in a musical performance? (2 marks)

2. 2. Explain the difference between a 'Crescendo' and a 'Diminuendo'. Use an example of how a musician might perform these. (2 marks)

3. 3. If Zara the zebra is listening to a piece of music and describes it as having a 'thick' texture, what does she mean by this? Refer to the number of instruments or melodies playing at once. (3 marks)

4. 4. Describe 'Timbre' and explain why a flute and a tuba sound different even if they play the exact same note at the same volume. (4 marks)

5. 5. Compare 'Staccato' and 'Legato' notes. How would you describe the physical action a musician might take to create these two different styles of sound? (4 marks)

6. 6. Imagine you are composing a piece of music to represent a stormy sea. Write a 5-mark extended response explaining how you would use at least three musical elements (e.g., dynamics, tempo, pitch) to create this atmosphere for your audience. (5 marks)

7. 7. What is the difference between 'pulse' and 'rhythm' in a piece of music? Provide a short example. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of a 'Crescendo'. Use symbols or shapes to show how the sound grows from soft to loud.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research a piece of music from a different culture. Identify two musical elements used and explain how they help tell a story or express a specific emotion.