

Grade 3 Music Assessment: Decoding Musical Notation

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of rhythmic notation, stave elements, and the purpose of musical symbols.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of notes, rests, and musical vocabulary to complete the paper. Ensure your answers are clear and written in full sentences where requested.

Max the monkey has been practising his drumming in the jungle. He has written down his rhythms on a five-line stave so that his friends can join in. He uses different symbols to show how long each sound should last. Sometimes, he needs a moment of silence in his music, so he marks a special symbol to tell the performers to pause.

Word bank: Stave · Treble Clef · Minim · Crotchet · Quaver · Rest · Bar Line · Time Signature

1. Identify the symbol used to show a moment of silence in music. Explain why this is important for a performance. (2 marks)

2. Max draws a 'Treble Clef' at the start of his musical stave. What is the purpose of the Treble Clef in written notation? (2 marks)

3. List the following notes in order from the longest duration to the shortest duration: Crotchet, Quaver, Minim. (3 marks)

4. If a piece of music has a 4/4 time signature, how many crotchet beats should be present in each bar? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast a minim and a crotchet. How does the visual appearance of the note relate to its value in a rhythm? (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are composing a short rhythm for a school concert. Write a 4-bar rhythm using crotchets, minims, and quavers. Label your bar lines clearly. (6 marks)

7. Why do musicians use a standardised system of notation instead of just playing by ear? Discuss the benefits for a group of musicians working together. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a five-line stave and place a Treble Clef at the beginning. On the stave, draw a rhythm that includes two minims and four crotchets.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Greater Depth Challenge: If you were to invent a brand new symbol for a musical 'whisper', what would it look like and where would you place it on the stave? Explain why your symbol is necessary for expressive performance.