

Grade 3 Music Assessment: The Rhythm of Sound

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of pulse, tempo, rhythm patterns, and musical notation.

Read each question carefully. Use musical terminology where possible to explain your reasoning. Ensure your spelling is accurate.

Max the monkey is organising a jungle percussion concert. He wants to ensure that every animal plays in time. He has noticed that when the lions stomp their feet, they follow a steady, underlying pulse, but when the birds flutter their wings, they create complex, varying rhythms that dance over the top of that pulse.

Word bank: Pulse · Tempo · Beat · Rhythm · Minim · Crotchet · Quaver · Syncopation · Bar · Time Signature

1. Define the difference between 'pulse' and 'rhythm' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. If a piece of music is played at an 'Allegro' tempo, how would you describe the speed of the music compared to an 'Adagio' tempo? (2 marks)

3. Max is writing a rhythm in 4/4 time. If he has already placed two crotchets in a bar, how many more beats can he add to complete the bar? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

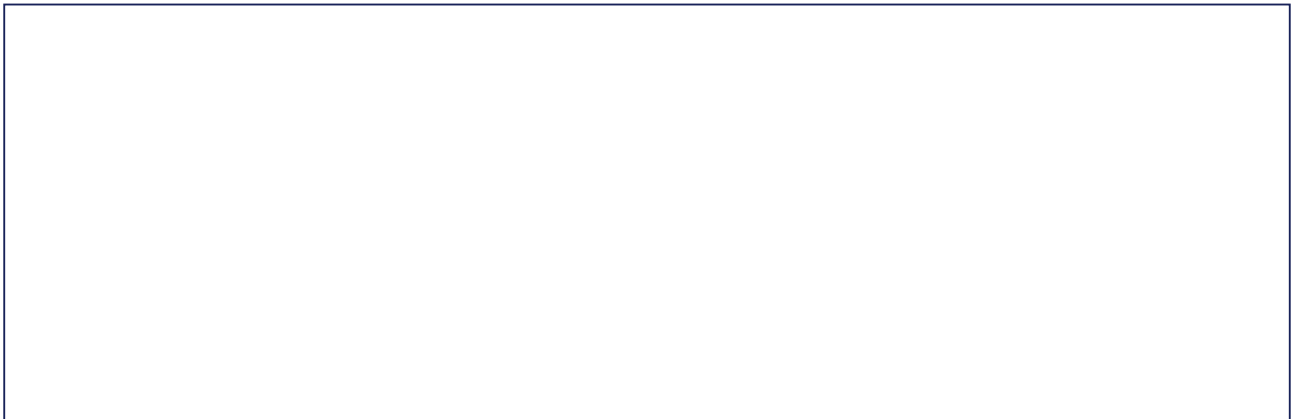
4. Explain why a conductor might use a baton to show the time signature to an orchestra. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast a 'minim' and a 'quaver'. How does their duration change how a musician performs them? (4 marks)

6. What might happen to the audience's ability to dance if the drummer suddenly stopped playing the pulse but kept playing the syncopated rhythm? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

7. Max wants to compose a new jungle track. Write a short paragraph (5 sentences) describing how you would use different instruments to represent the 'pulse' and the 'rhythm' of a thunderstorm. You must use at least three words from the word bank. (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a graphic score representing a thunderstorm. Use thick lines to show the steady pulse of the rain, and jagged, light patterns to show the rhythm of the crashing thunder.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: If you were to add an ostinato (a repeating pattern) to your thunderstorm composition, how would you ensure it remains consistent throughout the performance? Justify the importance of consistency in ensemble playing.