

Grade 4 Music Assessment: The Power of Tempo

Learning objective: To identify, define, and apply knowledge of musical tempo and its effect on mood and performance.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you with your answers. Ensure your writing is clear and demonstrates your understanding of musical terms.

Max the monkey is organising a jungle concert. He wants to ensure the music matches the mood of the animals. He is using a metronome to keep everyone in time. He has pieces of music that are very slow and steady, others that are at a walking pace, and some that are extremely fast to get everyone dancing.

Word bank: Largo · Presto · BPM · Metronome · Tempo · Moderato · Accelerando · Ritardando

1. Define the term 'tempo' in your own words. Why is it important for a musician to follow the tempo during a performance? (2 marks)

2. Max needs to label his music. Match the Italian musical terms to their English definitions: 1. Largo (Very fast), 2. Presto (Slow and broad), 3. Moderato (Moderate/Walking pace). (3 marks)

3. Explain the difference between an 'accelerando' and a 'ritardando'. Use an example of how a listener might feel when the music changes in these ways. (4 marks)

4. If a piece of music is played at 60 BPM (Beats Per Minute), how many beats would occur in two minutes? Show your working. (3 marks)

5. Leo the lion is writing a poem about a storm. He wants the music accompanying his poem to start slow, speed up as the storm arrives, and then slow down as the rain stops. Describe which musical terms he should use and explain how the tempo changes would affect the audience's emotions. (5 marks)

6. If a band is playing out of time, what tool could Max use to help them stay consistent? Explain how it works. (4 marks)

7. True or False: If you increase the BPM, the music sounds slower. Explain your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of Tempo. Show how you would draw 'Largo' versus 'Presto' using patterns, shapes, or lines to represent speed.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a composer. Write a short paragraph describing a piece of music you would write for a race. Mention the starting tempo, any changes in tempo during the race, and the final tempo as the winner crosses the line. Total: /25