

Max's Musical Masterpiece Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the fundamental elements of musical composition, including rhythm, melody, tempo, and structure.

Join Max the monkey as he experiments with percussion and melody! Answer these questions to help him finalise his latest musical composition. Use the word bank to help you.

Answer Key: 1. A (Composition), 2. False, 3. Dynamics, 4. B (Tempo), 5. True, 6. Ostinato, 7. C (Melody), 8. True, 9. Structure, 10. D (Pitch).

Word bank: Tempo · Rhythm · Melody · Dynamics · Structure · Ostinato · Pitch · Composition

1. 1. What is the correct term for a piece of music that has been written or created by a composer? A) Composition*, B) Calculation, C) Conversation, D) Collection (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The 'tempo' of a piece of music refers to how loud or quiet the music is played. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which musical element refers to the volume of the sound, ranging from pianissimo (very quiet) to fortissimo (very loud)? (1 mark)

4. 4. If Max wants his music to sound very fast and energetic, which element should he adjust? A) Pitch, B) Tempo*, C) Texture, D) Silence (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: An 'ostinato' is a short, rhythmic or melodic pattern that is repeated over and over again. (1 mark)

6. 6. Fill in the blank: A sequence of musical notes that are played in a particular order to create a recognisable tune is called a _____. (1 mark)

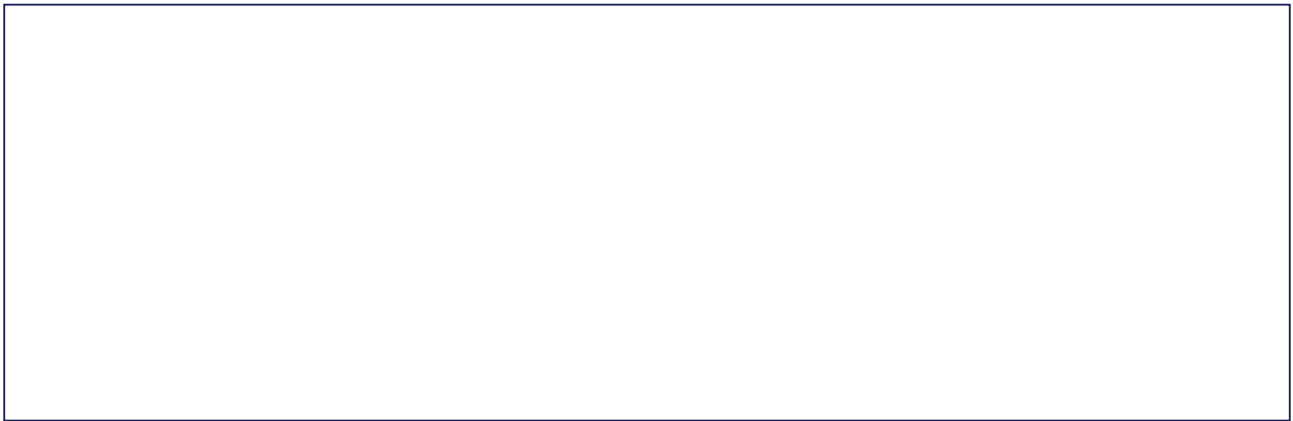
7. 7. How high or low a note sounds is known as: A) Duration, B) Beat, C) Pitch*, D) Pulse (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: 'Structure' in music refers to the way a piece is organised, such as using an A-B-A pattern. (1 mark)

9. 9. If Max spends £12.50 on a new drum and £7.75 on a recorder, how much does he spend in total? (Maths-Music crossover!) (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these is a way to change the 'texture' of a composition? A) Playing only one note, B) Staying at the same volume, C) Keeping the same tempo, D) Adding multiple layers of different instruments* (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'sound map' for Max's composition. Use symbols or colours to represent different instruments, where the size of the shape shows volume (dynamics) and the placement on the page shows the speed (tempo).



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why a composer might choose to use a sudden change in dynamics in the middle of a piece. 2. Compare and contrast the effect of a slow tempo versus a fast tempo on the listener's emotions. 3. Justify your answer: Does a piece of music need lyrics to be considered a 'composition'? 4. What might happen if a composer never used silence (rests) in their music? 5. Describe how you would represent the feeling of a stormy sea using only three different percussion instruments. 6. If you were to compose a piece for a school assembly, what structure would you use and why?