

Year 5 Music Assessment: The Elements of Composition

Learning objective: To demonstrate a secure understanding of musical elements including tempo, dynamics, pitch, texture, and timbre.

Read each question carefully. Use your musical vocabulary to provide precise explanations. Max the Monkey is looking for logical, well-reasoned answers.

Max the Monkey is composing a jungle symphony. He wants his music to sound like the rustling of leaves and the sudden pounce of a leopard. He has chosen a fast tempo for the chase sequence and wants to use a loud volume to represent the leopard's roar. He is considering using a flute for the bird calls and a drum to create a repetitive rhythm pattern in the background.

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

1. Define the musical term 'Timbre' and explain how Max could use it to distinguish between the 'bird calls' and the 'leopard's roar' in his symphony. (3 marks)

2. What is the difference between 'Crescendo' and 'Diminuendo'? Give an example of how a musician would perform these movements. (2 marks)

3. Max decides to add a repetitive rhythm pattern to his music. What is the technical term for this, and why might it be effective for creating a sense of 'jungle movement'? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast 'Staccato' and 'Legato'. If you were writing music for a gentle elephant walking through the forest, which would you choose and why? (4 marks)

5. Explain why a composer might choose to change the 'Tempo' of a piece of music halfway through. What impact does this change have on the listener's emotional response? (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are composing a piece of music based on a stormy day. Using at least four musical elements (Tempo, Dynamics, Pitch, Texture), describe how you would structure your composition to take the listener from a calm start to the height of the storm and back to a calm finish. Justify your choices. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a graphical score representing the 'storm' you described in the final question. Use lines, shapes, and symbols to show how the dynamics and tempo change throughout the piece.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: If you were to add a human voice to your 'storm' composition, how would you change the 'Texture' of the piece? What might happen if you performed this piece in a large, hollow stone hall compared to a small, soft-furnished room? Justify your answer using your knowledge of acoustics.