

Max's Musical Mystery Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and describe the inter-related dimensions of music (musical elements) including pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture, and timbre.

Help Max the monkey solve these musical puzzles! Read each question carefully and select the best answer to help him compose his next jungle symphony.

Answer Key: 1. B, 2. True, 3. Dynamics, 4. C, 5. False, 6. Timbre, 7. B, 8. Texture, 9. True, 10. A.

Higher-order thinking responses should demonstrate an understanding of how these elements shift to create emotional impact and structural contrast.

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

1. 1. Max is playing his drums. Which element describes how fast or slow the beat is? A) Pitch B) Tempo* C) Dynamics D) Timbre (1 mark)

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

3. 3. If a piece of music gradually gets louder, what musical term describes this change? (1 mark)

4. 4. Which element helps us tell the difference between a flute and a tuba playing the same note? A) Tempo B) Pitch C) Timbre* D) Rhythm (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: A 'staccato' note is played in a smooth, long, and connected way. (1 mark)

6. 6. What do we call the 'layers' of sound in a piece of music, such as whether it is thin or thick? (1 mark)

7. 7. An 'ostinato' is: A) A very high note B) A repeated musical pattern* C) A type of drum D) A quiet whisper (1 mark)

8. 8. If a song has a melody and a harmony playing together, what musical element are we describing? (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: 'Pitch' refers to how high or low a sound is. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these would make a piece of music feel very tense or exciting? A) A sudden crescendo* B) A very slow tempo C) A single, quiet note D) A simple melody (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a representation of a 'Crescendo'. Use shapes and lines to show how a sound might grow from a tiny whisper to a loud, roaring jungle sound.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a composer might choose to use a 'staccato' style rather than a 'legato' (smooth) style in a piece of music. 2. Compare and contrast the 'texture' of a solo violin piece with an entire symphony orchestra. 3. Justify why changing the 'tempo' can completely alter the mood of a song. 4. What might happen if a piece of music had no variation in dynamics? 5. If you were composing a piece about a thunderstorm, which musical elements would you manipulate to create the atmosphere, and why? 6. Analyse a song you enjoy: identify one example of an ostinato and explain its role in the song's structure.