

Music Notation Mastery: An Assessment with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of musical notation, including note values, time signatures, and the stave, by applying knowledge to composition and analysis.

Read each question carefully. Max the Monkey has provided some musical puzzles for you to solve. Ensure you use musical terminology accurately. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

Max the Monkey is organising a jungle concert. To make sure all the animals play together, he has written down the rhythm for the opening melody. He has used a 4/4 time signature and needs to ensure every bar adds up correctly. He needs your help to check his notation before the rehearsal begins.

Word bank: Semibreve · Minim · Crotchet · Quaver · Stave · Treble Clef · Time Signature · Bar Line · Rest · Pitch

1. Identify the value of a crotchet in a 4/4 time signature. How many crotchets are required to fill one complete bar? (2 marks)

2. Explain why a 'Treble Clef' is placed at the beginning of the stave. What information does it provide to the musician? (3 marks)

3. Max has written a bar with one minim and two quavers. Calculate the total number of beats used. Is the bar complete in 4/4 time? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a 'Semibreve' and a 'Quaver'. In your answer, refer to their duration and how they appear visually on a score. (4 marks)

5. What might happen to the performance if a musician ignores a 'rest' symbol written in the score? Explain the effect on the overall rhythm. (3 marks)

6. Max wants to compose a new rhythm. Write a sequence of notes that fills exactly two bars of 4/4 time using at least three different note values. You must include a bar line in the correct position. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are the conductor for Max's jungle concert. Explain the importance of musical notation. Why is it essential for a group of different animals to follow the same written score rather than playing by ear? Use your knowledge of tempo, pitch, and rhythm to support your argument. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space provided, draw a Treble Clef on a five-line stave and label one note as 'Middle C'.



Extension challenge: Challenge: If you were to change the time signature from 4/4 to 3/4 (waltz time), how would this change the structure of the bars you created in question 6? Describe the impact on the 'feel' of the music. Total: /25