

# Max's Rhythmic Patterns: The Percussion Puzzle

*Learning objective: To understand, perform, and compose rhythmic patterns using different note values and time signatures (4/4).*

Max the monkey is putting on a jungle concert! He has created a 'rhythmic menu' using different note values. Your task is to compose four bars of music in 4/4 time. Each bar must equal exactly four beats. Use the note values in the word bank to fill the grid. Remember: a crotchet is 1 beat, a minim is 2 beats, and a semibreve is 4 beats.

*Word bank: Crotchet (1 beat) · Minim (2 beats) · Semibreve (4 beats) · Quaver pair (1 beat) · Rest (1 beat)*

**1. Compose Bar 1: Use a combination of notes that adds up to exactly 4 beats. Write down your rhythm sequence. (2 marks)**

**2. Compose Bar 2: Use only two different types of note values. Explain why this creates a balanced rhythm. (3 marks)**

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**3. If Max replaces a semibreve with four crotchets, how does the tempo change? Justify your answer. (3 marks)**

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**4. Compare and contrast a minim and a crotchet. How do they affect the 'feel' of a piece of music when played in a sequence? (3 marks)**

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**5. What might happen to the rhythm if you accidentally added a 5th beat to a 4/4 time signature bar? Explain the musical consequence. (3 marks)**

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6. If you were to add a 'rest' to your composition, where would you place it for the most dramatic effect? Justify your choice. (3 marks)

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**Draw:** Draw a graphic score for your four-bar rhythm. Use symbols like dots for crotchets and long lines for semibreves to show how your rhythm moves across the page.



*Extension challenge: Challenge: Compose a 'syncopated' rhythm by placing a quaver pair on the off-beat (the 'and' of the beat). Perform your four-bar composition for a partner and ask them to identify the time signature simply by listening to your beat.*