

Year 5 Assessment: The Art of Vocal Performance

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of vocal technique, musical expression, and the terminology associated with choral and solo singing.

Read each question carefully. Use your musical vocabulary to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure your writing is clear and legible.

Max the monkey is preparing to lead the forest choir. He knows that singing is more than just hitting the right notes; it is about how you stand, how you breathe, and how you tell a story with your voice. Whether the song is a fast, energetic tune or a slow, gentle lullaby, Max insists that every member of the choir must listen to one another to create a beautiful, blended sound.

Word bank: Dynamics · Pitch · Tempo · Posture · Phrasing · Articulate · Ensemble · Breath control · Timbre · Staccato · Legato

1. Identify two physical actions that are essential for good 'breath control' when singing. Why is this important for a long musical phrase? (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'dynamics' and provide one example of how a singer might change their volume to express a specific emotion. (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between 'staccato' and 'legato' singing. How would a singer's vocal technique need to change to switch between these two styles? (3 marks)

4. In an ensemble, why is it vital for singers to watch the conductor and listen to the voices around them? Use the term 'blending' in your answer. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the role of a soloist with that of a member of a choir. In what ways do their responsibilities differ during a performance? (4 marks)

6. Justify why 'posture' is considered the foundation of a successful vocal performance. What might happen to the quality of the sound if a singer is slouching? (3 marks)

7. Extended Response: Imagine you are performing a song about a stormy sea. Describe how you would use pitch, tempo, and dynamics to convey the atmosphere of the storm to your audience. How would you adjust these elements if the storm suddenly cleared to reveal a calm, sunny horizon? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a singer with perfect posture, labelling the key areas of the body that assist in supporting the voice (e.g., diaphragm, lungs, shoulders).



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Research a piece of music from a different culture. Write a short paragraph explaining how the singing style in that culture differs from the choral singing we study in class. Use at least four terms from the word bank in your comparison.