

Vocal Exploration: A Singer's Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the mechanics of the human voice and explore the expressive qualities of singing in different styles.

Use this fact-file to document your research into vocal performance. Reflect on how singers use their bodies as instruments to convey emotion and meaning. Think about how breathing, posture, and tone work together to create a professional performance.

Word bank: Diaphragm · Pitch · Dynamics · Resonance · Articulation · Phrasing · Timbre · Posture

1. The Mechanics of Breath: Explain why maintaining good posture is essential for a singer to control their diaphragm effectively. (3 marks)

2. Expressive Dynamics: Compare and contrast how a singer might use 'piano' (soft) and 'forte' (loud) dynamics to change the mood of a song. (3 marks)

3. Vocal Timbre: Describe how a singer's unique voice quality (timbre) helps the audience identify the emotion behind the lyrics. (2 marks)

4. Artistic Interpretation: Justify why a singer might choose to change the tempo or phrasing of a well-known song during a live performance. (3 marks)

5. Performance Analysis: What might happen if a singer ignored the musical notation for dynamics? Explain the impact on the listener. (2 marks)

6. Creative Synthesis: If you were to compose a song to represent the ocean, which vocal techniques would you use to mimic the movement of waves? Explain your choices. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose a song you enjoy. Research its composer or original performer. Write a short critique analysing how they used their voice to communicate the song's narrative. Would you perform it differently? Justify your artistic decisions.