

Year 5 Music Assessment: The Language of Tempo

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of tempo, including Italian terminology, musical pulse, and the impact of speed on mood and character.

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

Max the monkey is composing a symphony for his friends. He wants to describe the movement of a river using musical speed. He starts with a calm, flowing section, then speeds it up as the water cascades over rocks, before slowing it down to a gentle trickle into a quiet pond.

Word bank: Adagio · Andante · Allegro · Presto · BPM (Beats Per Minute) · Pulse · Rhythm · Accelerando · Ritardando

1. Define the term 'tempo' in your own words. Why is it essential for a conductor to control the tempo during an orchestral performance? (2 marks)

2. Identify the correct Italian term for a 'very fast' tempo and explain how a composer might use this to influence the listener's emotions. (3 marks)

3. If a piece of music is playing at 60 BPM (Beats Per Minute), calculate how many beats would occur in exactly 30 seconds. Show your working. (2 marks)

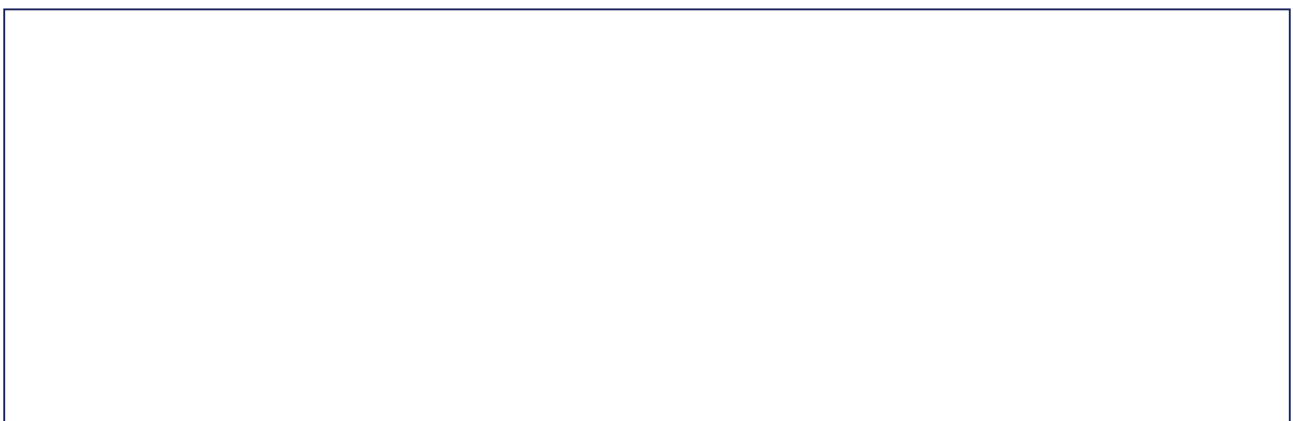
4. Max decides to use an 'accelerando' in his river symphony. Explain what happens to the music and describe the effect this would have on the audience. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast 'Adagio' and 'Andante'. How might a composer choose between these two tempi when writing music for a scene depicting a sunrise? (4 marks)

6. Explain why a composer might choose to use a 'ritardando' at the very end of a musical piece. Justify your answer using musical reasoning. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are composing a piece of music to represent a stormy sea. Write a detailed plan of the tempi you would use from the beginning to the end. Justify your choices by linking specific Italian terms to the changing intensity of the storm. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of 'Presto' and 'Adagio'. Use patterns, shapes, and lines to show how the speed of movement looks different in each style.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: If you were to conduct a piece of music that changed tempo every 15 seconds, what challenges would you face? Write a short paragraph explaining the 'conductor's role' in maintaining the pulse for the musicians.