

Exploring Global Rhythms: A World Music Assessment

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of musical traditions, instruments, and cultural contexts from around the world.

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

Music is a universal language that reflects the history, environment, and beliefs of cultures across the globe. From the complex, interlocking metallophone patterns found in Indonesian Gamelan orchestras to the vibrant, percussive heartbeat of West African drumming, every musical tradition tells a unique story. By listening to the timbre of traditional instruments, such as the Kora or the Sitar, we can identify how geography and materials influence the sound of a region.

Word bank: Polyrhythm · Syncopation · Pentatonic · Timbre · Call and response · Djembe · Gamelan · Improvisation

1. Define the term 'Call and Response' and explain how it is typically used in a musical performance. (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is studying the Djembe. Describe two different ways to produce sound on this drum to create varied timbres. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the structure of a Gamelan orchestra with a Western symphony orchestra. Consider instrumentation and ensemble size. (4 marks)

4. Explain why the geography of a region often dictates the type of instruments a culture develops. Provide one specific example. (3 marks)

5. Zara the zebra is composing a piece inspired by traditional folk music. Why might she choose to use a pentatonic scale? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

6. What might happen to the authenticity of a musical tradition if it were performed using only digital synthesisers instead of traditional acoustic instruments? Discuss the impact on timbre and cultural identity. (6 marks)

7. Identify one world instrument and describe its physical construction and the method used to play it. (2 marks)

8. If a group of musicians were to visit a local market, how could they use their environment to create a rhythmic composition inspired by world music styles? (3 marks)

Draw: Illustrate an instrument from a culture you have studied. Label the parts of the instrument and explain how it is held or played.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an ethnomusicologist travelling the globe. Write a 200-word diary entry describing a musical performance you witnessed. Include descriptions of the rhythm, the instruments used, and the emotional response of the audience. Total: /25