

GCSE Music

Things to listen out for...

Rhythm & Metre

- Listen for **emphasis** on beat 1, then count!
- 4/4 most common **BEST GUESS**
- If grouped in 3's – likely to be 6/8
- Likely rhythmic features:
 - **SYNCOPATION** – off beat
 - **CROSS-RHYTHM** – 2 different rhythms played together
 - **POLYRHYTHM** – Lots of rhythms at same time (Africa)
 - **DRUM FILL** – in pop/rock/Jazz
 - **OSTINATO** - repeated pattern
- Tempo – Largo, Andante, Moderato, Allegro
 - **RUBATO** – flexible tempo = expressive

**MOST
COMMON**

Opposing Ideas

Long Questions

---Rhythm---

Regular beat/Straight

Dotted notes (long-short...)
Syncopated/offbeat
Swing (dah-dee-dah! - Jazz)
Rubato (flexible tempo)
Triplets (in 3's)

Long notes (minims/semibreves)

Short notes (quavers/semiquavers)

Augmentation (double note values)

Diminution (halve note values)

---Metre---

Simple time (4/4, 3/4, 2/4)

Compound (6/8, 12/8)
Irregular (5/4)

Accelerando (speed up)

Ritenuato/Rallentando (slow down)

Harmony & Tonality

Opposing words:

- Diatonic – tune uses notes in scale = simple/pleasant
- Chromatic – not in scale = colour/interesting
- Consonant – chords or notes sound ‘nice’ together
- Dissonant – Clashing/unpleasant

Listen for:

- PEDAL or DRONE – held note (in bass)

Harmony & Tonality

Cont'd...

- TONALITY:
 - Major – Happy
 - Minor – Sad
 - Modal – mostly MINOR sounding, but a bit different!
 - Atonal – Weird (horrible)
- CADENCES – end of phrase (sentence)
 - PERFECT – MOST COMMON – ‘Full Stop’
 - PLAGAL – ‘Amen’
 - IMPERFECT – ‘Unfinished’
 - INTERRUPTED – ‘Surprise!’
- MODULATION – to another key
 - Sounds brighter? – to DOMINANT
 - Sounds duller? – to SUBDOMINANT
 - Change from major to minor – to RELATIVE

BEST GUESS

BEST GUESS

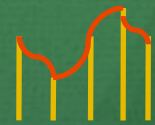
Texture & Melody

- **Texture:**

MOST
COMMON

- Homophonic – chordal (tune & accompaniment)
- Polyphonic – Lots of melodies weaving together
- Antiphonal – 2 musical groups taking turns! (pan)
- Monophonic – one tune _____
- Octaves – same note higher or lower _____

- Listen For:
 - Broken Chords – notes of chord played one by one
 - Imitation – Different parts copying one another
 - Sequence – Same melody at different pitch



Texture & Melody

Cont'd...

- **Melody:**
 - Conjunct (stepwise) Vs Disjunct (Leaps)
 - Diatonic (in scale) Vs Chromatic (not in scale)
 - Scalic Vs Triadic/Arpeggio/Broken chord (notes of chord)
 - If not major/minor scale, MAY BE Pentatonic or Whole Tone or Modal
 - Legato (smooth), Staccato (detached)
 - Acciaccaturas/appoggiaturas (decoration)
 - Blue notes (Jazz)
 - Intervals: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, octave

Timbre & Dynamics

- **Dynamics:**

MOST
COMMON

- P (soft), mp, mf, f (loud)



- Crescendo (getting louder) Vs Diminuendo (softer)
- Sfz (sforzando) – Sudden accent of note
- fp – loud, then suddenly quiet

- **Timbre:**

- Instruments – listen to *youtube*, see revision guide
- Techniques – see next page

Techniques

Opposing Ideas	
STRINGS Pizzicato (plucked) Tremolo	Arco (bowed)
Pitch bend	
Slide/Glissando/Portamento	
(GUITAR) Distortion Chorus Reverb	Clean
BRASS Mute (con sordino)	
WOODWIND Trill, Mordent	
VOCAL Falsetto (high part of male voice) Vibrato (expressive technique)	
TECHNOLOGY Vocoder (robot sound!) Panning (Moving from L-R)	

Structure & Form

Due to short nature of extracts...

LIKELY to ask you to listen to PHRASE STRUCTURE, for example...A1 B A2 C

CLASSICAL

- AB – Binary
- ABA – Ternary
- Theme & Variations (A1 A2 A3)
- Symphony (Orchestra piece – 4mvts)
- Concerto (Orchestra + SOLOIST – 4 mvts)
- Sonata (SOLO INSTRUMENT + Piano – 4 mvts)
- Minuet

WORLD

- Call & Response (African/Blues), A Capella

POP

- Pop Music = Strophic Form