

Key Stage 3 Music Listening Exam Topic Lists

Musical Elements

Texture – How many sounds/instruments playing at once. Thick/Thin

Pitch – How high the notes are. High/Low. Going up/down. Stays the same

Duration/Rhythm – Length of notes Short/Long

Tempo – Speed – Fast/Slow. Does it change?

Melody – The tune

Dynamics – Volume – Loud/Quiet. Does it change?

Timbre – The sounds used. Instrument families.

Structure – The sections. ABA. Intro Verse Chorus

Instruments & Families

Strings (Have strings on them) – Violin, Guitar, Cello, Harp etc.

Woodwind (Use wind from your lungs to play) – Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone, recorder etc.

Brass (Brass coloured) – Trumpet, Trombone Tuba, Horn etc.

Percussion (Hit, shaken or scraped) – Drum kit, maracas, steel pans, xylophone, glockenspiel etc.

Listen to examples of instruments on YouTube

Musical Periods

Concerto through time:

Baroque – 1600 – 1750 – Small orchestra used harpsichord and has sudden dynamics. Bach and Handel were famous composers.

Classical – Bigger orchestra, very even music and gradual dynamics. Mozart and Beethoven were famous composers.

Romantic – Expressive and pushes the boundaries. Large orchestra. Liszt and Shubert were famous composers.

Listen to examples on YouTube by searching: Baroque Concerto or Classical Concerto or Romantic Concerto

