

## Section 1: Focus on TEXTURE, TIMBRE and DYNAMICS

Across the four areas of study, these are the 'must-know' musical terms for **TEXTURE**, **TIMBRE (SONORITY)** and **DYNAMICS**:

TEXTURE	TIMBRE (SONORITY)	DYNAMICS
Monophonic		
Homophonic		
Polyphonic	Instruments, voices and groupings	
2, 3 or 4 part textures		Pianissimo
Unison	Technology	Piano
Chordal		Mezzo piano
Imitation	Performance techniques	Mezzo forte
Layered		Forte
Melody and accompaniment	Articulation	Fortissimo
Counter melody		Crescendo
Descant	[Refer to Appendix C in the spec]	Diminuendo
Round		Sforzando
Canon		
Drone		
Alberti Bass		
Stab chords		
Walking bass		

## Area of Study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

1. You will hear some music by the composer J.S. Bach.  
<https://tinyurl.com/yausv5nu> [from start to 1'10"]

Answer the following questions.

I.

- i. Identify the **instrument** performing this music. [1]

- ii. To what orchestral family does this particular instrument belong? [1]

- II. Underline the term below which correctly describes the **texture** of the music. [1]

Monophonic      Homophonic      Polyphonic

- III. Tick (✓) two words in the box below which best describe the performance techniques used to play this music. [2]

Performance techniques	Tick
Arco	
Pizzicato	
Syllabic	
Legato	
Divisi	

- IV. Underline the word below which best describes this type of piece. [1]

Quartet      Trio      Duet      Solo

- V. Suggest a suitable dynamic for this piece. [1]

J.S. Bach was a very important composer who lived and worked in the **Baroque** era. Name two other composers from the same era.

This piece is called a '**Partita**'. Find out what this means.

The word '**Allemanda**' is written above the first line. Find out what this means.

Discuss with other members in class the phrasing of the melodic line in this extract of music.

The last chord is interesting. Why?

What is the **tonality**? The **time signature**?

Can you note any other interesting features or devices in the music?

2. The following extract is from the *Andante* movement of a concerto by the composer **Mozart**.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df-eLzao63I> [from 1'30" to 2'18"]

I.

i. Name the **solo instrument** playing the melody. [1]

ii. Name the **family of instruments** accompanying the melody. [1]

II. The instruction '**pizz**' is written on the original score for this extract.

i. State what the term 'pizz' is short for. [1]

ii. Explain what is meant by the instruction 'pizz'. [1]

III. Tick (✓) two musical terms that may be used to describe the musical texture in this extract. [2]

Musical terms	Tick
Unison	
Melody and accompaniment	
Round	
Layered	
Imitative	
Homophonic	
Polyphonic	

IV. Underline the type of ensemble you believe to be performing in this extract. [1]

String quartet

Band

Orchestra

Rhythm section



## Area of Study 2: Music for Ensemble

1. Listen to the following extract of a piece of music to be used in a musical theatre review entitled 'Memories of England Past'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHlgzJjSwMo> [from the start to 1'38"].

[N.B. Students must listen aurally to this extract, and NOT WATCH THE CLIP!]

This musical extract is divided into parts as shown below:

### Part 1 [Intro]

### Part 2

1. *Are you going to Scarborough Fair?*
2. *Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme*
3. *Remember me to one who lives there*
4. *She once was a true love of mine*

### Part 3 [Link]

### Part 3

5. *Ask her to make me a cambric shirt*
6. *Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme*
7. *Without any seam or needle work*
8. *Then she'll be a true love of mine*

Listen carefully to the extract as you answer the following questions.

- I. There are no accompanying instruments in this extract. Give the musical term for this. [1]

- II. Describe the style of singing in **Part 1**. [1]

III. Tick (✓) which **two** musical features are heard in **Part 1**.

[2]

Musical features	Tick
Chords	
Scat	
Pianissimo	
Crescendo	
Glissando	

Make sure you know the meanings of all these terms. Then, you can choose the answer with confidence.

IV. Suggest the correct dynamic of the music at the start of **Part 2**.

[1]

V. One of the following statements is true. Tick (✓) the statement that you believe to be true.

[1]

Statement	Tick
The ensemble performing this music is a male voice choir.	
The ensemble performing this music is a mixed vocal ensemble.	
The ensemble performing this music is a male vocal quartet.	

VI. Complete the following sentence with the appropriate term.

The lowest vocal part makes a particular contribution in Part 3. This is known as a

[1]

VII. State the musical term which best describes the overall texture in this extract.

[1]

\* Describe how **harmony** is used in this musical arrangement to create the desired effect in performance.

\* Now listen to the opening of another version of the song 'Scarborough Fair':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BakWVXHsUg>

**Compare** the two versions referring to **contrasts** in **instrumentation**, **voices**, tempo and **texture**. (Do not simply list what you hear.) This could be set as a longer answer question (individual work) for homework.

**Class or group discussion:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vy8Jz9DTdZs>

Watch the clip to appreciate another version of this song. Discuss the opening part and build-up, and describe how the musical elements have been used to achieve a contrasting style in performance.



## 2. Chamber Music.

Listen to this piece of music by J.S. Bach.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fxorVN9tqg> [from start to 0'33"]

Now answer the following questions.

I. Underline the words below which describe this type of ensemble. [1]

Symphony                  Concerto                  Overture                  Trio Sonata

II.

i. Identify the keyboard instrument playing in this extract. [1]

ii. Identify the woodwind instrument playing in this extract. [1]

iii. Give the correct name used to describe the bass and keyboard parts in this type of music. [1]

III. Identify the type of **texture** heard in this musical extract. [1]

IV. Tick (✓) **two** textural features heard in this extract. [2]

Textural features	Tick
Drone	
Imitation	
Chordal writing	
Unison	
3-part texture	

- In which musical era or period did Bach live and compose? What were the dates of this musical era?
- Name two other composers who lived and worked at the same time as Bach.
- Some other important musical features may be identified in this extract – such as **sequence**, **modulation**, **ornaments**. Identify where these occur as you listen to the recording, and make sure you understand what they mean.
- Can you work out the **time signature** and **tonality** of this music?

## Area of Study 3: Film Music

1. This is a musical extract from the film '*The Big Country*'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQTH3a0mjR8> [from start to 0'50"]

Listen to the extract carefully:

I. The musical extract for this question is in three sections. In the table below, there are suggestions for the order of these sections. Tick (✓) which one you believe to be the correct order of the sections.

[1]

Suggestion	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Tick
Suggestion 1	Strong chords	Layering of ideas	Main theme	
Suggestion 2	Main theme	Strong chords	Layering of ideas	
Suggestion 3	Layering of ideas	Strong chords	Main theme	
Suggestion 4	Strong chords	Main theme	Layering of ideas	
Suggestion 5	Layering of ideas	Main theme	Strong chords	

II. Underline which ensemble you believe to be performing this music.

[1]

Full orchestra

Brass Band

Windband

String Orchestra

III. Suggest a suitable dynamic for each of the sections, along with the appropriate Italian term for each suggestion (e.g. Section 1- *quiet – piano*).

[6]

Section	Dynamic	Italian term
Section 1		
Section 2		
Section 3		

IV. Give one word to describe the **texture** of Section 2.

[1]

V.

- i. Name one **untuned percussion instrument** heard in this extract. [1]

- ii. Name one **tuned percussion instrument** in this extract. [1]

- This film theme is very famous. What **type** of film do you think it was?
- In a '**longer answer**' response, explain **two** ways in which the composer achieved the mood and atmosphere of **action/excitement**. (You can use some of the information from the answers above, but also consider the use of **melody, rhythm** and **harmony**.)

These type of 'longer' responses are often worth more marks, so organise your ideas and observations carefully and thoughtfully.

2. You will hear the opening theme from a film called '*Chariots of Fire*'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY3XiM7oGj0> [from start to 1'10"]

Answer the following questions.

- I. There are a number of different musical ideas presented in order to build up the texture before the main theme of the film is introduced.

Complete the table below, suggesting the instruments/timbres you believe are used to portray the musical ideas. [4]

Musical Ideas	Instruments / Instrumental sounds
Repeated rhythmic pattern	
Ascending interval of a 5th	
'Tinkling' effect	
Steady percussive beat	

- II. Tick (✓) one of the following statements that you believe is **true**. [1]

Statement	Tick
The type of texture at the start of the extract is known as Imitation.	
The type of texture at the start of the extract is known as an Alberti Bass	
The type of texture at the start of the extract is known as a Canon.	
The type of texture at the start of the extract is known as Layering.	

III.

- i. The opening starts very quietly. Give the correct Italian term for 'very soft'. [1]

- ii. As the music progresses, it gets louder. Underline the musical term below which correctly describes this. [1]

Sforzando                  Diminuendo                  Ritardando                  Crescendo

- IV. Name the instrument which plays the main theme. [1]

## Some 'longer answer' questions:

- Describe ways in which the composer uses **dynamics** and **texture** in this piece to create effect.
- This type of music has been described as 'electronic'. Discuss how the composer may have used technology to create this music.

## Area of study 4: Popular Music

1. Listen to the following extract from a song called – ‘**Son of a Preacher Man**’.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjydOI4MEIw> [from start to 0’55”]

You should play it three times while considering the questions below. Here are the words:

*(Instrumental intro)*

1. *Billy Ray was a preacher’s son*
2. *And when his daddy would visit he’d come along*
3. *When they gathered around and started talkin’*
4. *That’s when Billy would take me walkin’*
5. *Out through the back yard we’d go walkin’*
6. *Then he’d look into my eyes*
7. *Lord knows, to my surprise*
8. *The only one who could ever reach me*
9. *Was the son of a preacher man*
10. *The only boy who could ever teach me*
11. *Was the son of a preacher man*
12. *Yes, he was, he was, ooh, yes, he was*

*(short instrumental link)*

- I. Name two of the instruments heard in the introduction. [2]

1.

2.

- II. Underline which type of voice performs the song. [1]

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

- III. Give a musical term which describes the texture in lines 1 – 4. [1]

IV. More instruments join in at the end of line 4.

[2]

i. Underline the words below which best describe the instruments in this musical style.

Rhythm section

Wind trio

Horn section

ii. Underline the words which best describe what they are playing.

Sustained chords

Stab chords

Staccato chords

V. Tick (✓) which three of the following statements you believe to be true.

[3]

Statement	Tick
In lines 8-12, further musical interest is added through use of an Alberti Bass.	
In lines 8-12, further musical interest is added through use of unison singing.	
In lines 8-12, further musical interest is added through use of backing vocals.	
In lines 8-12, further musical interest is added through layering the texture.	
In lines 8-12, further musical interest is added through the use of sequence.	
In lines 8-12, further musical interest is added through the use of imitation.	

## DISCUSS:

- How would you describe the **tempo** of this piece?
- State the **time signature**.
- How would you describe the **tonality** of this piece?
- What **style** of music do you believe this to be?



2. You will hear another musical extract, the opening of a song by Robbie Williams called '**Millennium**'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUFxa22UWdM> [from start to 0'46"]

The lyrics for the extract are:

*(Short introduction)*

1. *We've got stars directing our fate*
2. *And we're praying it's not too late*
3. *Millennium*
4. *Some say that we are players*
5. *Some say that we are pawns*
6. *But we've been making money*
7. *Since the day that we were born*
8. *Got to slow down*
9. *'Cause we're low down*

Answer the following questions on the texture and instrumentation.

- I. Identify the opening musical sound and what it does in the next question. [3]

- i. Name the instrument.

- ii. Identify the performance technique used.

- iii. Give the term which describes the dynamic change in this sound.

II.

- i. Name the orchestral instruments used in the introduction. [2]

- ii. Underline the other layer of timbre/sonority in the introduction.

Brass                  Vocals                  Flutes

III. Tick (✓) **two** textural terms which may be used to describe this opening.

[2]

Textures	Tick
Monophonic	
Canon	
Layered	
Counter melodies	
Unison	

IV. Give the main difference between the vocals in lines 1-3, compared with the vocals in lines 4-9.

[2]

V. Explain how the vocals are heard against the rock instrumental backing.

[1]

VI. Complete the following sentences with the correct musical information.

[2]

i. The main instrument heard at 45 seconds into the extract is the:

ii. The main instrument performing at 45 seconds into the extract is playing a:

- Remember to consider all definitions offered before selecting your answer.
- Make a note of any terms that you are unsure of and find out what they mean. Play around with musical ideas on a keyboard (or another instrument) to help with your understanding of all melodic terms. If you know what they are, you will be able to recognise them in the exam.
- Sometimes an exam question will require a more extended answer. A good deal of information has been covered in the above question. Use this to **write a longer paragraph** to describe the use of **texture, dynamics** and **instrumentation** in the given extract.