


GCSE Music: General Music Theory

The Elements of Music

1	Melody	The main tune , e.g. <i>conjunct</i>
2	Articulation	The way the music is played, e.g. <i>staccato</i>
3	Dynamics	The volumes , e.g. <i>forte</i>
4	Tempo	The speed , e.g. <i>allegro</i>
5	Structure	The overall form , e.g. <i>ternary form</i>
6	Harmony / Tonality	The chords or key , e.g. <i>major</i> , or <i>extended chords</i>
7	Instrumentation	The instruments and playing techniques , e.g. <i>arco</i>
8	Rhythm	The patterns around a beat , e.g. <i>syncopation</i>
9	Texture	The relationship between layers e.g. <i>homophonic</i>













Tempo

10	Largo	Very slow
11	Lento / Adagio	Slow / leisurely
12	Andante / Moderato	Walking pace / not too slow / moderate pace
13	Allegretto	Moderately fast
14	Allegro	Fast / lively / quick
15	Rubato	'Freer', more free interpretation of the tempo
16	Accelerando (Accel.)	accel. . . Gradually faster
17	Ritardando (Rit.)	rit. . . Gradually slower
18	Pause	 Hold the note longer than normal





Reading Clefs

19	Treble clef Every Green Bus Drives Fast F A C E
20	Treble clef (Extended) C D G A (Middle C)
21	Bass clef Good Burritos Don't Fall Apart All Cows Eat Grass
22	Bass Clef (Extended) E F B C (Middle C)

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Durations		Note	Rest	
23	Semibreve			4 beats
24	Minim			2 beats
25	Crotchet			1 beat
26	Quaver			½ beat ... 2 or more are joined together = 
27	Semiquaver			¼ beat ... 2 or more are joined together = 

Texture		
28	Monophonic	One single melody on its own
29	Accompaniment	The rhythm or chord parts that support a melody
30	Homophonic	One clear melody supported by chords
31	Melody and accompaniment	One clear melody with an accompaniment
32	Polyphonic	Lots of melodies overlapping – there is no 'main melody'
33	Counter melody	A melody that plays on top of the main melody
34	Imitation	The repetition of a melody in a different part in polyphony
35	Canon / Round	Strict imitation where the melody starts at different times, overlapping

Articulation		
36	Legato	 Play all of the notes smoothly
37	Slur	 Play only the notes with a curved line smoothly
38	Staccato	 Play the notes in a short, detached way
39	Accent	 Play the note louder than the other notes

Musical Forms and Structures		
40	Binary form	A – B
41	Ternary form	A – B – A
42	Minuet and trio form	A – B – C – D – A – B
43	Rondo form	A – B – A – C – A etc...
44	Variation form	A – A1 – A2 – A3 – A4 etc...
45	Strophic form	A – A – A – A etc... (only verses)
46	Verse-chorus form	Combination of verses and choruses
47	12 bar blues form	Based around a repeating 12 bar blues
48	32 bar song form	A – A – B – A form (only verses)

GCSE Music: AoS 1 - Musical Forms and Devices

The Baroque Era

49	1600 - 1750	The Baroque era of music
50	Harpsichord	Keyboard instrument used in the Baroque era
51	Bach, Handel & Vivaldi	Notable Baroque composers
52	Terraced dynamics	Dynamics change suddenly and are in blocks of 2/4/8 bars (no gradual changes)
53	Long, complex melodies	Common feature of melodies in Baroque music

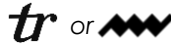


The Classical Era

54	1750 - 1810	The Classical era of music
55	Piano	Keyboard instrument used in the Classical era and onwards
56	Mozart, Beethoven & Haydn	Notable Classical composers
57	Balanced phrases	Melodies are equal lengths and split into equal phrases
58	Melody and accompaniment	Common texture in Classical music

The Romantic Era

59	1810 - 1900	The Romantic era of music
60	Brahms, Liszt, & Tchaikovsky	Notable Romantic composers
61	Large brass and percussion sections	Biggest change to the orchestra in this era
62	Extreme dynamic changes	Dynamics in Romantic music
63	Descriptive/emotional music	Common type of Romantic music

Musical Devices

64	Repetition	The musical phrase is repeated exactly
65	Ostinato	The musical phrase is repeated exactly and continuously
66	Imitation	The musical phrase is repeated but with some slight changes (often on another instrument)
67	Sequence	The melody is repeated at a different pitch (usually on the same instrument)
68	Conjunct melody	The melody moves in steps
69	Disjunct melody	The melody moves in leaps
70	Regular phrasing	The phrases are of equal length
71	Anacrusis	An incomplete bar at the start of a piece that acts as an up-beat
72	Ornamentation	The decoration of a melody
73	Trill	 or  Ornament that ' shakes ' the note
74	Appoggiatura	 Ornament that shares the duration of the main note

Set Work: *Badinerie* by J. S. Bach

75	1738-39	The year of <i>Badinerie</i> was composed
76	Suite	<i>Badinerie</i> is one section of this type of composition
77	Transverse flute	The main melodic instrument in the piece
78	String orchestra	The large accompaniment section
79	Basso continuo	The part played by the harpsichord
80	B minor	The overall key of the piece
81	Binary form	The overall form of the piece