

GCSE Music: General Theory

TEMPO

1	Largo	Very slow
2	Lento	Slow
3	Andante	Walking pace
4	Allegro	Fast
5	Presto	Very fast

CLEFS

	Treble Clef	Bass Clef
17	<p>E Fast C Drives A Bus F Green Every</p>	<p>G Apart E Fall C Don't A Burritos All Good</p>

STRUCTURE

6	Structure	The way sections in a piece of music are organised
7	Introduction	The opening part of a piece of music
8	Binary Form	A-B structure
9	Ternary Form	A-B-A structure
10	Strophic Form	A structure made from verses (or verses and choruses)

DURATIONS

	Note	Rest	
18	Semibreve		4 beats
19	Minim		2 beats
20	Crotchet		1 beat
21	Quaver		½ beat (2 or more are joined together)
22	Semiquaver		¼ beat (2 or more are joined together)

DYNAMICS

11	Piano	<i>p</i>	Soft
12	Mezzo piano	<i>mp</i>	Quite soft
13	Mezzo forte	<i>mf</i>	Quite loud
14	Forte	<i>f</i>	Loud
15	Crescendo		Gradually louder
16	Diminuendo		Gradually softer

TEXTURE

23	Texture	The relationship between layers in a piece of music
24	Monophonic	One single melody on its own
25	Accompaniment	The rhythm or chord parts that support a melody
26	Homophonic	One clear melody with an accompaniment
27	Polyphonic	Lots of melodies overlapping – there is no 'main melody'

GCSE Music: Musical Forms and Devices

BAROQUE ERA

1	1600 - 1750	The Baroque era of music
2	Harpsichord	Keyboard instrument used in the Baroque era
3	Bach, Handel & Vivaldi	Notable Baroque composers
4	Terraced dynamics	Dynamics change suddenly (no gradual changes)
5	Long, complex melodies	Common feature of melodies in Baroque music

CLASSICAL ERA

6	1750 - 1810	The Classical era of music
7	Piano	Keyboard instrument used in the Classical era and onwards
8	Mozart, Beethoven & Haydn	Notable Classical composers
9	Balanced phrases	Melodies are equal lengths and split into equal phrases
10	Melody and accompaniment	Common texture in Classical music



ROMANTIC ERA

11	1810 - 1900	The Romantic era of music
12	Brahms, Liszt, & Tchaikovsky	Notable Romantic composers
13	Large brass and percussion sections	Biggest change the orchestra in this era
14	Extreme dynamic changes	Dynamics in Romantic music
15	Descriptive/emotional music	Common type of Romantic music

FORMS

16	Binary form	A – B
17	Ternary form	A – B – A
18	Minuet and trio form	A – B – C – D – A – B
19	Rondo form	A – B – A – C – A <i>etc...</i>
20	Variation form	A – A1 – A2 – A3 – A4 <i>etc...</i>
21	Strophic form	A – A – A – A <i>etc...</i>

MUSICAL DEVICES

22	Repetition	The musical phrase is repeated exactly
23	Ostinato	The musical phrase is repeated exactly and continuously
24	Imitation	The musical phrase is repeated but with some slight changes (often on another instrument)
25	Sequence	The melody is repeated at a different pitch (usually on the same instrument)
26	Conjunct melody	The melody moves in steps
27	Disjunct melody	The melody moves in leaps
28	Regular phrasing	The phrases are of equal length
29	Anacrusis	An incomplete bar at the start of a piece that acts as an up-beat
30	Ornamentation	The decoration of a melody
31	Trill	 Ornament that ' shakes ' the note
32	Appoggiatura	 Ornament that shares the duration of the main note