GCSE Music - Knowledge Checklist

# Area of Study 1: Musical forms and Devices

## FORMS / STRUCTURES

The following forms/structures are used in the Classical and Romantic periods.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Binary Form** |  |  |  |
| **Ternary Form** |  |  |  |
| **Minuet and Trio** |  |  |  |
| **Rondo Form** |  |  |  |
| **Theme and Variations** |  |  |  |
| **Strophic** |  |  |  |
| **Contrast** |  |  |  |
| **Introduction** |  |  |  |
| **Coda** |  |  |  |

## MUSICAL DEVICES

The following musical devices are used in the Classical and Romantic periods.

### RHYTHM

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Dotted Rhythm** |  |  |  |
| **An anacrusis** |  |  |  |
| **Ostinato** |  |  |  |
| **Hemiola** |  |  |  |
| **Syncopation** |  |  |  |
| **Triplets** |  |  |  |

### MELODY

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Sequence** |  |  |  |
| **Conjunct**  |  |  |  |
| **Disjunct** |  |  |  |
| **Scalic** |  |  |  |
| **Ascending** |  |  |  |
| **Descending** |  |  |  |
| **Triadic / Arpeggic / Broken chord** |  |  |  |
| **Imitation / Imitative** |  |  |  |
| **Repetition** |  |  |  |
| **Periodic Phrasing****/ Phrasing** |  |  |  |
| **Intervals – such as Octave / 2nd / 3rd etc.** |  |  |  |
| **Chromatic movement** |  |  |  |
| **Trill / ornamentation / decoration** |  |  |  |
| **Counter-melody** |  |  |  |

## TONALITY AND HARMONY

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Major** |  |  |  |
| **Minor** |  |  |  |
| **Modulation to the Dominant / Relative Major / Minor** |  |  |  |
| **Tonic** |  |  |  |
| **Subdominant** |  |  |  |
| **Dominant (7th)** |  |  |  |
| **Cadences:****Perfect****Plagal****Imperfect****Interrupted** |  |  |  |
| **Harmonic rhythm** |  |  |  |
| **Drone** |  |  |  |
| **Pedal** |  |  |  |
| **Dissonance** |  |  |  |

## TEMPO (Applied to all AoS)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Vivace** |  |  |  |
| **Allegro** |  |  |  |
| **Allegretto** |  |  |  |
| **Moderato** |  |  |  |
| **Andante** |  |  |  |
| **Adagio** |  |  |  |
| **Lento** |  |  |  |
| **Accelerando** |  |  |  |
| **Ritardando** |  |  |  |
| **Rallentando** |  |  |  |
| **Rubato** |  |  |  |
| **Pause** |  |  |  |

## DYNAMICS (Applied to all AoS)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Pianissimo (pp)** |  |  |  |
| **Piano (p)** |  |  |  |
| **Mezzo piano (mp)** |  |  |  |
| **Mezzo forte (mf)** |  |  |  |
| **Forte (f)** |  |  |  |
| **Fortissimo (ff)** |  |  |  |
| **Crescendo** |  |  |  |
| **Diminuendo** |  |  |  |
| **Sforzando** |  |  |  |

## Metre (Applied to all AoS)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Regular** |  |  |  |
| **Irregular** |  |  |  |
| **Accent** |  |  |  |
| **Simple time (2/4, 3/4, 4/4)** |  |  |  |
| **Duple / triple / quadruple** |  |  |  |
| **Compound time (6/8)** |  |  |  |

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# Area of Study 2: Music for ensemble

The focus of this area of study is texture and sonority, considered through the study of music for small groups of instruments and voices. **Jazz and blues, musical theatre and chamber music are mentioned as useful genres to illustrate these features.**

## CONTEXT

The following styles of music may come up in this part of the exam. Make sure you know a bit of context for each style.

### JAZZ

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Context:*** **Historical information – year / what changed**
* **Size of the ensemble**
* **What kind of instruments played this music?**
* **Well-known artists**
 | **Learned ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **The Blues** |  |  |  |
| **Early Jazz** |  |  |  |
| **Bebop** |  |  |  |
| **Cool Jazz** |  |  |  |
| **Free Jazz** |  |  |  |
| **Jazz Rock (Fusion)** |  |  |  |
| **Jazz Terminology** |
| **Improvisation** |  |  |  |
| **Scat singing** |  |  |  |
| **Lead instruments/section** |  |  |  |
| **Rhythm section** |  |  |  |
| **Syncopation** |  |  |  |
| **Blue notes** |  |  |  |
| **Pentatonic** |  |  |  |
| **Walking Bass** |  |  |  |
| **Stab Chords** |  |  |  |

### MUSICAL THEATRE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Context:*** **Historical information – where/when/who/what/why**
* **Typical characteristics**
* **What kind of instruments played this music?**
* **Well-known composers**
 | **Learned ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Musicals** |  |  |  |
| **Rock Operas** |  |  |  |
| **Grand Opera** |  |  |  |
| **Operetta** |  |  |  |
| **Singspiel** |  |  |  |
| **Opera buffa** |  |  |  |

### CHAMBER MUSIC

Chamber music is music written for small combinations of instruments. The word ‘chamber’ means ‘room’ – so it is used to describe ensembles that could fit in a house. Music may range from the Baroque era through to 20th/21st century music.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Context:*** **Historical information – where/when/who/what/why**
* **Typical characteristics**
* **What kind of instruments played this music?**
* **Well-known composers**
 | **Learned ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Duet** |  |  |  |
| **Trio /****Trio Sonata****(Baroque era)** |  |  |  |
| **Quartet /** **String Quartet** |  |  |  |
| **Quintet /** **Piano quintet /** **Wind/Brass quintet** |  |  |  |
| **Sextet** |  |  |  |
| **Septet** |  |  |  |
| **Octet** |  |  |  |

### TEXTURES

You will be expected to be able to tell what kind of texture is being used while listening to music – specifically from the following ensemble music: Vocal ensembles; Jazz/blues trio; rhythm section; string quartet; basso continuo; sonata.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Learned ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Monophonic** |  |  |  |
| **Unison** |  |  |  |
| **Homophonic /****Chordal** |  |  |  |
| **Melody and Accompaniment** |  |  |  |
| **Polyphonic** |  |  |  |
| **Round** |  |  |  |
| **Canon** |  |  |  |
| **Countermelody****/ Counterpoint / Contrapuntal** |  |  |  |
| **Layered** |  |  |  |
| **Imitation** |  |  |  |
| **Drone** |  |  |  |
| **Alberti Bass** |  |  |  |

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# Area of Study 3: Film Music

## COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES FOR FILM

The following composing techniques are used in film music.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Main Theme** |  |  |  |
| **Underscore** |  |  |  |
| **Creating a mood with music (action/suspense etc.)** |  |  |  |
| **Leitmotif** |  |  |  |
| **Linking music (from one scene to another)** |  |  |  |
| **Mickey-mousing** |  |  |  |
| **Music to illustrate location / historical period** |  |  |  |
| **Music to affect the pacing of a scene (to appear faster/slower)** |  |  |  |

## MUSICAL ELEMENTS USED IN FILM MUSIC

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Rhythmic motives** |  |  |  |
| **Chromatic notes** |  |  |  |
| **Dotted rhythms** |  |  |  |
| **Ostinato** |  |  |  |
| **Solo vocal texture** |  |  |  |
| **Melody and accompaniment** |  |  |  |
| **Chordal texture** |  |  |  |
| **Leitmotifs****/ thematic transformation** |  |  |  |
| **Discords** |  |  |  |
| **Sforzandi** |  |  |  |
| **Fanfare** |  |  |  |

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# Area of Study 4: Popular Music

You will answer a question here on your set work: *Since You’ve Been Gone* by Rainbow.

## STYLES OF MUSIC

The following composing techniques are used in film music.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Context:*** **Historical information – where/when/who/what/why**
* **Typical musical characteristics**
* **What kind of instruments played this music?**
* **Well-known artists**
 | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Pop** |  |  |  |
| **Rock** |  |  |  |
| **Fusion** |  |  |  |
| **Bhangra** |  |  |  |

## STRUCTURES AND MUSICAL ELEMENTS USED IN POPULAR MUSIC

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **32 Bar Song Form /** **AABA** |  |  |  |
| **Strophic Form** |  |  |  |
| **12 bar blues** |  |  |  |
| **Verse and chorus** |  |  |  |
| **Riff** |  |  |  |
| **Ostinato** |  |  |  |
| **Middle 8** |  |  |  |
| **Bridge** |  |  |  |
| **Fill** |  |  |  |
| **Instrumental break** |  |  |  |
| **Intros and Outros** |  |  |  |
| **Call and Response** |  |  |  |
| **Improvisation** |  |  |  |
| **Loops** |  |  |  |
| **Samples** |  |  |  |
| **Panning** |  |  |  |
| **Phasing** |  |  |  |
| **Syncopation** |  |  |  |
| **Driving rhythms** |  |  |  |
| **Balance** |  |  |  |
| **Standard chord progressions** |  |  |  |
| **Power chords** |  |  |  |
| **Melismatic / Syllabic writing** |  |  |  |
| **Lead and backing vocals** |  |  |  |
| **Backing tracks** |  |  |  |
| **Primary chords** |  |  |  |
| **Secondary chords** |  |  |  |
| **Cadences** |  |  |  |

## INSTRUMENTS USED IN BHANGRA / INDIAN MUSIC

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Dhol** |  |  |  |
| **Tabla** |  |  |  |
| **Sitar** |  |  |  |
| **Sarangi** |  |  |  |
| **Tumbi** |  |  |  |

## INSTRUMENTAL TECHNIQUES USED IN POPULAR MUSIC

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Musical Term** | **Meaning** | **Heard ✓** | **Understood ✓** |
| **Tremolo**  |  |  |  |
| **Distortion** |  |  |  |
| **Hammer on** |  |  |  |
| **Rim shot** |  |  |  |
| **Slap bass** |  |  |  |
| **Drum roll** |  |  |  |
| **Glissando / slide** |  |  |  |
| **Pitch bend** |  |  |  |