KS3 Music Quiz
Fundamental Elements of Music

The Fundamental Elements of Music are: Pitch, Duration, Dynamics, Tempo, Timbre, Texture and Structure.

Have a go at the following quiz to see how much you've been taking notice in your Music lessons!

1. Which element of music best describes how 'high' or 'low' notes sound?
   - [ ] Pitch
   - [ ] Rhythm
   - [ ] Texture
   - [ ] Timbre

2. In terms of duration, which is longest of these notes?
   - [ ] Dotted quaver
   - [ ] Minim
   - [ ] Semi-breve
   - [ ] Semi-quaver

3. What is the purpose of dynamics in a piece of music?
   - [ ] To express how loud or quiet the music should be played
   - [ ] To illustrate a key signature
   - [ ] To represent a change of speed
   - [ ] To show a change of time signature
4. What does 'andante' mean?
[ ] At a moderate/walking pace
[ ] Gradually getting faster
[ ] Very fast
[ ] Very slow

5. What best describes the effect of a 'ritardando'?
[ ] A gradual increase of volume
[ ] A sudden pause
[ ] Changing of key signature
[ ] Gradually getting slower

6. Which of these instruments has a 'bright' timbre?
[ ] Bassoon
[ ] Cello
[ ] Double bass
[ ] Piccolo

7. What is a 'homophonic' texture?
[ ] A single and unaccompanied voice
[ ] Multiple voices varying a main melody simultaneously
[ ] The overlapping of several melodic voices in a piece
[ ] Where one voice stands out on top of a backing harmony

8. What does the marking 'mezzo forte' (mf) mean?
[ ] Moderately loud
[ ] Moderately quiet
[ ] Very loud
[ ] Very quiet
9. Binary form is made up of how many sections?
   [ ] One (A) - a single section often repeated
   [ ] Two (AB)
   [ ] Three (ABA)
   [ ] Five (ABACD)

10. A minim is made up of how many quaver beats?
    [ ] Three
    [ ] Four
    [ ] Six
    [ ] Eight
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1. Which element of music best describes how 'high' or 'low' notes sound?
   [x] Pitch
   [ ] Rhythm
   [ ] Texture
   [ ] Timbre

2. In terms of duration, which is longest of these notes?
   [ ] Dotted quaver
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   [x] Semi-breve
   [ ] Semi-quaver

3. What is the purpose of dynamics in a piece of music?
   [x] To express how loud or quiet the music should be played
   [ ] To illustrate a key signature
   [ ] To represent a change of speed
   [ ] To show a change of time signature

   *They can illustrate both sudden and gradual changes*

4. What does 'andante' mean?
   [x] At a moderate/'walking' pace
   [ ] Gradually getting faster
   [ ] Very fast
   [ ] Very slow
5. What best describes the effect of a 'ritardando'?
[ ] A gradual increase of volume
[ ] A sudden pause
[ ] Changing of key signature
[x] Gradually getting slower

This is often generalised as 'rit.' on sheet music

6. Which of these instruments has a 'bright' timbre?
[ ] Bassoon
[ ] Cello
[ ] Double bass
[x] Piccolo

The others are low sounding and have 'darker' timbres

7. What is a 'homophonic' texture?
[ ] A single and unaccompanied voice
[ ] Multiple voices varying a main melody simultaneously
[ ] The overlapping of several melodic voices in a piece
[x] Where one voice stands out on top of a backing harmony

Note: homophonic and homophony are not the same!

8. What does the marking 'mezzo forte' (mf) mean?
[x] Moderately loud
[ ] Moderately quiet
[ ] Very loud
[ ] Very quiet
9. Binary form is made up of how many sections?

[ ] One (A) - a single section often repeated

[x] Two (AB)

[ ] Three (ABA)

[ ] Five (ABACD)

*However, both sections are sometimes repeated*

10. A minim is made up of how many quaver beats?

[ ] Three

[ ] Four

[ ] Six

[ ] Eight

*Remember - minim = two crotchets, crotchet = two quavers*