



GCSE Music Terminology List

Melody

- Anacrusis
- Anticipation note
- Conjunct (stepwise)
- Disjunct (angular)
- Arpeggio/broken chord
- Triadic
- Scalic (ascending/descending)
- Low pitch
- High pitch
- Range
- Sequence
- Imitation
- Repetition
- Contrast
- Leitmotif
- Motif
- Octave
- Tone/ Major 2nd
- Major 3rd
- Perfect 4th
- Perfect 5th
- Major 6th
- Major 7th
- Semitone
- Chromatic movement
- Pentatonic
- Blue notes
- Trill/ornamentation/decoration
- Countermelody
- Answering phrase
- Thematic
- Fanfare

Tonality

- Major
- Minor
- Modal
- Modulation to the Dominant and Relative Major/Minor
Pentatonic

Harmony

- Primary chords
- Secondary chords
- Inversion
- Diatonic
- Tonic
- Subdominant
- Dominant (7th)
- Perfect cadence
- Imperfect cadence
- Plagal cadence
- Interrupted cadence
- Chord progression/chord sequence
- Harmonic rhythm
- Drone
- Pedal
- Dissonance
- Power chords

Form and Structure

- Binary
- Ternary
- Rondo
- Minuet and Trio
- Repetition
- Contrast
- Theme and variations
- Strophic
- 32 bar song form/AABA
- 12 bar Blues
- Call and response
- Ostinato
- Bridge
- Break
- Loop
- Improvisation
- Verse
- Chorus
- Middle 8
- Fill
- Introduction
- Outro
- Coda
- Riff
- Phrasing (regular and irregular)

Texture

- Monophonic
- Homophonic
- Polyphonic
- 2, 3 or 4 part textures
- Unison
- Chordal
- Imitation
- Layered
- Melody and accompaniment
- Countermelody
- Descant
- Round
- Canon
- Drone
- Alberti bass
- Stab chords
- Walking bass

Tempo

- Allegro/Vivace
- Allegretto
- Moderato/Andante
- Adagio/Lento
- Accelerando
- Ritardando/Rallentando
- Rubato
- Pause

Rhythm

- Semibreve
- Minim
- Crotchet
- Quaver
- Semiquaver
- Dotted
- Syncopation
- Swing rhythms
- On the beat
- Off-beat
- Triplet
- Associated rests
- Driving rhythms
- Dance rhythms
- Rock rhythms

Metre

- Regular
- Irregular
- Accent
- Simple time (2/4, 3/4, 4/4)
- Duple/triple/quadruple
- Compound time (6/8)

Dynamics

- Pianissimo
- Piano
- Mezzo piano
- Mezzo forte
- Forte
- Fortissimo
- Crescendo
- Diminuendo
- Sforzando

Musical Styles

- Western Classical Tradition
- Baroque
- Classical
- Romantic
- Chamber music
- Jazz
- Blues
- Musical Theatre/Musical
- Welsh folk
- Cerdd dant
- Film Music
- Rock
- Soul
- Hip-hop
- Reggae
- Ballad
- Pop
- Fusion
- Minimalism

Timbre

Instruments, Voices and Groupings

- Strings
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double bass
- Harp
- Woodwind
- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Bassoon
- Brass
- Trumpet
- French horn
- Trombone
- Tuba
- Percussion
- Timpani
- Drum kit
- Snare drum
- Cymbal
- Hand held percussion
- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Keyboard
- Piano
- Organ
- Harpsichord
- Basso continuo
- Classical or Spanish guitar
- Electric guitar
- Bass guitar
- Solo
- Duet
- Trio
- Soprano
- Alto
- Tenor
- Bass
- Backing vocals
- A cappella
- Chorus
- Orchestra
- String quartet
- Basso continuo
- Pop/rock group
- Rhythm section
- Acoustic

Technology

- Synthesised/electronic
- Panning
- Phasing
- Sample
- Reverb
- Echo
- Amplified

Performance techniques/Articulation

- Humming
- Syllabic
- Melismatic
- Scat
- Vibrato
- Falsetto
- Belt
- Rap
- Staccato
- Legato
- Sustained
- Accent
- Pizzicato
- Arco/bowed
- Divisi
- Double stopping
- Tremolo
- Distortion
- Hammer on
- Rim shot
- Slap bass
- Drum roll
- Muted
- Glissando/slide
- Pitch bend
- Plucked
- Slurred
- Tongued
- Detached