ENGLAND GCSE MUSIC AQA · UNIT 1 · 25 QUESTIONS

Musical Elements and Language — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button so it can be fixed.

1

A trumpet plays a fanfare. Which family of instruments does the trumpet belong to?

- A Brass
- B Percussion
- C Strings
- D Woodwind

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **A vinyl record plays a waltz. Which time signature is a waltz usually in?**

- A Three four
- B Two two
- C Four four
- D Six eight, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **A piano plays a melody that rises in pitch. What word describes the direction of the notes?**

- A Descending
- B Static
- C Syncopated
- D Ascending

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **A microphone records a singer whose voice gradually gets louder. What is this effect called?**

- A Ritardando
- B Crescendo
- C Diminuendo
- D Accelerando

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **A saxophone player makes up a melody on the spot. What is this called?**

- A Imitation
- B Transposition
- C Improvisation
- D Modulation

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **A conductor baton beats time for a march. Which time signature is a march often in?**

- A Six eight
- B Three four
- C Four four
- D Two two

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 **What is an introduction in a piece?**

- A A repeated chorus in a song
- B A change of tempo in the middle
- C A closing section after the final theme, in some situations
- D An opening section before the main theme

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **What is a minor key?**

A A key based on a minor scale

B A key that has no key signature

C A key with no tonic note

D A key based on a major scale

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **What is a drone?**

A A short note repeated quickly

B A long held note under a melody

C A melody played by two instruments

D A sudden change in dynamics

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **What is rondo form?**

A A main theme returning between episodes

B A theme repeated with changes each time

C A theme played once with no return

D Two themes alternating with no return

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **What is a canon?**

A A melody imitated by another part after a delay

B A melody played by one part only

C A chord played by the whole orchestra, in some situations

D A piece with no repeated material

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **How many sets of linked questions are in Section A?**

- A Ten
- B Four, in some situations
- C Six
- D Eight

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **What is a mute?**

- A A device that makes a sound louder, in some situations
- B A device that softens an instrument sound
- C A pedal that sustains notes
- D A type of drum stick

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **What is the beat in music?**

A The speed of the fastest notes

B The regular pulse of the music

C The first note of a piece

D The loudest note in a bar

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **What does presto mean?**

A Very slowly

B Gradually getting slower

C At a walking pace

D Very fast

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

16 **What is an arpeggio?**

- A The notes of a chord played one after another
- B A melody played backwards
- C A drum pattern repeated four times
- D The notes of a chord played all at once, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **How many crotchet beats does a minim last?**

- A One
- B Two
- C Four
- D Three

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **What is a phrase in music?**

A A group of instruments

B A single note held for a long time

C A type of drum beat

D A short musical sentence

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **What is ornamentation?**

A Decorative notes added to a melody

B Notes removed from a melody

C A change of tempo in a piece

D A new key signature in a piece, in some situations

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 **How long does a semiquaver last compared with a crotchet?**

- **A** A quarter as long
- **B** The same length, in some situations
- **C** Half as long
- **D** Twice as long

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 **What is homophonic texture?**

- **A** A melody with no harmony at all
- **B** Two independent melodies together, in some situations
- **C** A single melodic line alone
- **D** A melody with chordal accompaniment

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **What is a stave?**

A A set of drum sticks

B A type of musical scale

C Five lines on which music is written

D Four lines on which words are written

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **What is tempo in music?**

A How loud music is

B How high a note is

C The speed of the music

D The words of a song

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

24 **What does the dynamic marking piano mean?**

- A Quiet
- B Very fast
- C Very loud
- D Loud

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25 **What is a chord?**

- A Three or more notes sounded together
- B A melody played by a solo flute, in some situations
- C One note played on its own
- D A change in time signature

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

1.	A	**10.**	A	**19.**	A
2.	A	**11.**	A	**20.**	A
3.	D	**12.**	D	**21.**	D
4.	B	**13.**	B	**22.**	C
5.	C	**14.**	B	**23.**	C
6.	C	**15.**	D	**24.**	A
7.	D	**16.**	A	**25.**	A
8.	A	**17.**	B		
9.	B	**18.**	D		

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.