

GCSE - Musical Language - check list

Aural perception, knowledge, understanding:

use of musical elements, devices, tonalities, structures

use of resources, processes, notations

creation, performing and hearing of music

intentions, uses, venues, occasions, cultural environment

Context - sacred, secular ; private, public concert ; media, internet, live

Melody and Harmony

Melodic step/leap

Tones and Semitones

Unison and octave

Descant

Intervals-major, minor, augmented diminished

Scales - major

minor

chromatic

pentatonic

modal

blues -b3, b7,(b5)

whole tone row

Chords - major and minor, I, IV, V - Tonic, Dominant, Subdominant

Chord inversions - Root, 1st, 2nd

Chords - added 7th

Chords - note clusters.

Dissonance - discord

Consonance - concord

Modulation - how and why

Cadences - Perfect

Plagal

Interrupted

Imperfect

Phrasing

Articulation - legato, staccato, slurs

Tonalities - Tonal (diatonic)

Atonal

Bitonal

Structures

A, B, C

Binary

Ternary

Rondo

Verse form - strophic

Call and response -Antiphonal

Middle 8 - AABA

Notation

Treble and Bass Clef

Alto and Tenor Clefs

Key Signatures - up to 4# and 4b

Semibreves to semiquavers, inc triplets

Metronome marks, quantizing, aligning

Graphic Score

Jazz notation, slash chords

Rhythm and Meter

Pulse - regular beat

Simple time

Compound time

Irregular, free time

Tempo, speed

Syncopation

Cross rhythms, hemiola

Accentuation

Anacrusis

Textures, Instrumentation

Instruments

Voices

Synthesized sounds

Homophonic - chordal

Polyphonic - contrapuntal, interweaving melodies

Texture - thin and thicker

Devices

Dialogue

Sequence

Imitation

Fugal, canon

Motifs and leitmotifs

Drone

Ground Bass

Pedal

Ostinato

Riff

Dictation practice - (1) rhythm (2) pitch

VOCAL STYLES AND FORMS

OPERA	A large scale stage work, singing with orchestra
OPERETTA	Light opera, often with spoken dialogue
MUSICAL (SHOW)	a staged play, modern style
ORATORIO	Large scale work, singing/orchestra, usually religious, not acted
CANTATA	A sacred or secular vocal work, with orchestra accompaniment
ARIA	Solo song, sung in opera, oratorio
MASS / PASSION	Musical setting of church texts for church choirs Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Benedictus, agnus dei
REQUIEM	A mass for the dead
ANTHEM	Part song for church choirs, or National song
HYMN	Sung in church services etc
CAROL	A Christmas hymn
RECITATIVE	Half-sing, half-speaking in opera, oratoria - sung speech
PLAINCHANT	Unaccompanied and sung by Monks
SONG CYCLE	A group of songs, with a related theme - often about love
LIED LIEDER	A German romantic song with piano accompaniment
MADRIGAL	A part song, usually unaccompanied and polyphonic(Elizabethan)
MOTET	A sacred choral work, often in 3 parts (Renaissance/Baroque)
A CAPELLA	Unaccompanied singing
FOLK MUSIC	Songs about rural life, in verses - fiddle, accordion accompaniment
BALLAD	A song of many verses, usually telling a story
SEA SHANTY	A Sailors working song on board ship
NEGRO SPIRITUAL	Sung by Black slaves in America - rereligious words with African rhythms
SCAT SINGING	Modern style - e.g. doo-bee-do etc.

INSTRUMENTAL STYLES AND FORM

SYMPHONY	Large, full scale orchestra work - 3 or 4 movements, fast and slow
SYMPHONIC POEM	Orchestral piece depicting a story or scene.
PROGRAMME MUSIC	Orchestral work depicting a story or scene.
CONCERTO	A soloist, with orchestra, usually in 3 movements. e.g. piano or violin concerto
CONCERTO GROSSO	A concerto played by two groups of instruments
CADENZA	A short passage in a concerto played by soloist only - usually "virtuoso"
OVERTURE	Orchestral introduction to an opera
CHAMBER MUSIC	Sonatas etc. played by small group of instruments
SONATA	A work in 3 or 4 movements for piano, or soloist and piano Consists of fast and slow movements.
SONATA FORM	A whole movement of a sonata or symphony, consisting of 3 sections 1 Exposition, 2 Development 3 Recapitulation
SCHERZO and MINUET	In 3-time, one of the movements of a symphony or sonata Scherzo means "a joke"
SUITE	A selection of pieces, e.g. the dance suite of Baroque period
THEME AND VARIATIONS	Starts with a theme, and variations written on the theme
FUGUE	A contrapuntal piece in two or more parts, instrumental (sometimes vocal)
PRELUDE	A piece of music often written to precede other pieces e.g. before a fugue
FANFARE	Brass piece for ceremonial occasions
12 BAR BLUES	Modern piece based on chord sequence I, I, I, I, IV, IV, I, I, V, IV, I, I
ALEATORY MUSIC	Music not based on any traditional scales nor traditional instruments

