

Elements of Music

Articulation	The techniques used on the instrument
Melody	The main tune of the music
Dynamics	How loud or soft an instrument is played
Tonality	The mood of the music
Metre	The number of beats in a bar
Structure	The sections within a piece of music
Tempo	The speed of the pulse
Harmony	The chords in a piece of music
Sonority	The sound an instrument makes
Rhythm	A pattern of long and short notes
Texture	The layers of sounds in a piece of music

Other Key Vocabulary

Pulse	The beat, or "heartbeat" of the music
Ensemble	A group of musicians playing together
Polyrhythm	When different beat cycles occur at the same time
Simple Metre	"Wigan" Metre – when the rhythms use multiples of 2 and 4
Compound Metre	"Atherton" Metre – when the rhythms of multiples of 3

Year 8 – Term 1 Knowledge Organiser

Topic - Advanced Rhythm and Metre

Key Skills



Playing In Time -

When the **rhythm** of the music is in sync with the **pulse**

Ensemble Skills -
Performing music with others. The way musicians blend their voices and instruments to make a pleasing sound










Listening and Appraising -
Identifying key features and musical elements in music through listening

Why?

This topic re-introduces students to the fundamental skills of being a musician and key musical elements and vocabulary, while expanding on concepts from year 7 and deepening understanding. This is done through musical activities such as singing, drumming, listening, and composing.

Students are able to progress to more challenging content with greater understanding and proficiency in the key skills and elements of music.

Reading Notation

Semibreve		4 beats
Minim (Squash)		2 beats
Crotchet (Tea)		1 beat
Quaver		½ beat
Joined Quavers (Coffee)		½ + ½ = 1 beat
Semiquaver		¼ beat
Joined Semiquavers (Coca-Cola)		4 x ¼ = 1 beat

Year 8 – Term 2 Knowledge Organiser

Topic - Latin Music

Key Skills



Playing In Time -

When the **rhythm** of the music is in sync with the **pulse**

Ensemble Skills -

The way musicians blend their voices and instruments to make a pleasing sound



Listening and Appraising -

Identifying key features and musical elements in music through listening

Why?

This topic deepens students' awareness of musical cultures from around the world and broadens their musical horizons. This unit allows students to appreciate the global influences on popular music frequently heard in the UK. This unit also deepens students' understanding of musical concepts, as Latin music features challenging rhythmic content especially.

Latin Styles

Salsa

A blend of different styles of Latin music. Originally from **Cuba** and **New York**

Mariachi

Mexican traditional music

Samba

Brazilian carnival music

Calypso

Traditional music from **Trinidad and Tobago**

Bachata

Romantic music from the **Dominican Republic**

Reggaeton

Puerto Rican club-dance music. "Despacito" is a well-known example

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Other Key Vocabulary

Pulse	The beat, or "heartbeat" of the music
Ensemble	A group of musicians playing together
Off-beat	The "and" of each beat. The space between the counted beats
Syncopation	When the off-beats are accented in a rhythmic phrase

Latin Rhythms

Clave	"I want fish and chips"
Tresillo	"Squashed Tomatoes"
Cascara/Bell pattern	"Margherita and Pepperoni"
Tumbao	The bass pattern in Latin music