TEXTURE

What is the degree of DENSITY? How are the different sounds placed against each other? Thick, thin, bare, airy, rich, heavy, light, opaque etc

Describe the CHANGES that occur in the DENSITY.

How many different LEVELS of sound are used? Layered, High, Medium, Low, Extremes

How many different LINES of sound?
- Top line
- Middle line
- Bass line

Are they Vertical / Horizontal?

Comment on the MOVEMENT of individual lines
- Similar
- Contrary
- Oblique
- Call & Response
- Antiphonal
- Imitation

Name the TEXTURE
- Polyphonic - many lines
- Homophonic - melody and block chords
- Monophonic - one line
- Multi-layered

Does the texture CHANGE?

Describe the texture in words relating to touch
Heavy, Light, Clear, Transparent, Smooth, Silky, Coarse, Rough
PITCH

MELODY

Is the pitch **DEFINITE** or **INDEFINITE**?

Is there a melody?

Is there **ONE MAIN** melody or **MANY DIFFERENT** ones in succession or happening together?

What is the **SHAPE / CONTOUR** of the melody?
- Movement by steps (**scale-like**)
- Movement by leaps (**intervals**)
- Upward movement (**ascending**)
- Downward movement (**descending**)
- Regular recurring intervals
- **Chord based** melody

What is the **RANGE** of the melody?

Describe the **INTERPRETATION**
- Flowing, Lyrical, Abrupt, Jumpy, Angular, Tormented, Awkward, Smooth etc

Are there any **PATTERNS** of melody which **RECUR**?
- Riffs, Ostinatos, Motifs, Sequences, imitation

Describe the **PHRASING**:
- Balanced / Symmetrical
- Unbalanced
- How many Phrases?
- Question and Answer
- Repetitive
- Sequential
- Contrasting

Is the melody **ORNAMENTED**?
- Trills, Slides (glissando), Mordents etc

Is the melody **ACCOMPANIED** or **UNACCOMPANIED**? If so, how and by what?
HARMONY

Describe the TONALITY:

- Major
- Minor
- Modal
- Pentatonic
- Jazz Harmonies
- Diatonic
- Chromatic
- Whole Tone
- Atonal

Is there a MODULATION? Does it change key / tonal centre?

Is the harmony SIMPLE?

- Are the chords "traditional"? Chords I, IV, V.
- chord spacing (open/close)
- chord voicing
- cadences
- modulations

Is the harmony COMPLEX? Are the chords "added on" to? i.e. 7th, 9th, 11th

Is CHROMATICISM used? Tone clusters

Is there DISSONANCE?
  - Resolved (lots of tension?)  Unresolved  Use of Suspensions

Are there REPEATED CHORD PATTERNS?  E.g. 12 bar blues

Describe the harmonic ACCOMPANIMENT

- Pedal Point
- Drone
- Arpeggios
- Chords
- Alberti Bass
- Oom pah pah

What is the RATE of HARMONIC CHANGE / HARMONIC RHYTHM?

How many horizontal lines (melodies) make up the harmony? 2, 3, 4 parts etc.
STRUCTURE

How many **THEMES** can you hear?

How many **SECTIONS** can you hear?

Discuss the use of:
- Repetition
- Imitation
- Sequences
- Phrases
- Motifs
- Repetitive patterns
- Themes
- Variation
- Contrast

Are there clear-cut divisions and traditional forms/structures?
- AB - Binary
- ABA - Ternary
- ABACA – Rondo
- Theme and Variations
- Fugue
- Strophic – verse chorus
- Through composed i.e. like German Lieder
- 12 bar blues
- Rock style – verse, chorus, instrumental break etc.

Is there an **INTRODUCTION & / or a CODA**?

Is this piece part of a larger structure?
- Symphony
- Concerto
- Sonata
- Suite
- Opera

How does the structure relate to creating?
- **Unity - Repetition / Balance**
- **Contrast - Variety**
DURATION

Describe the **BEAT:**
Steady, Consistent, Unchanging, Indefinite, Strong, Weak

Describe the **METRE:**
Time signatures, NO Metre / NO Time Signature, Constant, Changing

Are there **ACCENTED** Beats? Regular / Irregular

Is the rhythm **SYNCOPATED**? (Remember: Pulse and predictable accent pattern needed first)

What are the **NOTE VALUES**?
- Mainly short
- Mainly long / sustained
- Dotted notes
- Unusual note groupings eg triplets, quintuplets etc
- Are the beats evenly divided?

Are there **RHYTHMIC PATTERNS**?
- Riffs
- Ostinatos
- Repetitive patterns
- Cross rhythms
- Polyrhythms. Cross rhythms
- Triplets etc

**PHRASE LENGTH?** 4 bar phrases / irregular phrase lengths

Describe the **MOOD**
- Animated * Free
- Lively * Rigid
- Dramatic * Constant motion
- Ponderous * Halting

How does the **RHYTHM relate to the OTHER CONCEPTS**?
- What is the **RHYTHM of the MELODY**?
- NAME the INSTRUMENT playing each rhythmic pattern.
- How does the **TEMPO** affect the rhythm?
- What are the **DYNAMICS** of the rhythm?
- Use of rubato and expressive techniques which might affect rhythm
- Articulations
DYNAMICS & EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES

DYNAMICS

Describe the **LOUDNESS** or **SOFTNESS** of the music.

How are these dynamic levels achieved?
- Varying the **number** of instruments playing e.g. single instrument, orchestra, rock band
- The type of instruments playing e.g.: brass, strings, electric guitars etc
- How **LOUD** or **SOFT** are the individual instruments playing?

Are the changes **GRADUAL** or **SUDDEN**?
Crescendo, Diminuendo, Sforzando, Terraced dynamics

Are there **ACCENTS**? How are they achieved?
How is **SILENCE** used?

Are there any **CHANGES in the tempo**? What is the **effect** of the changes?
Gradual, Sudden,

Are there **PAUSES**?
Is **RUBATO** used?

Describe the **STYLE** - Rock, Jazz, Operatic, Symphonic etc

What is the historical **PERIOD** of the piece?
Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist, Non Western, Twentieth Century. Modern etc

Performance directions /stylistic **indications** - Describe HOW the music is played:
- Simply - Semplice
- Gracefully - Grazioso
- Stately - Maestoso
- Lively - Vivo
- With emphasis - Marcato
- Animated - Animato
- Short - Staccato
- Smoothly – Legato
TONE COLOUR

Describe the SOUND SOURCE:
- **VOICE TYPE** - Male - Bass, Baritone, Tenor, Counter tenor
  Female - Alto, Mezzo Soprano, Soprano, Coloratura.
- Name the **INSTRUMENT** and / or its FAMILY
  - **UNRECOGNISABLE** - categorise into a similar group i.e.: sounds like......
    OR
    Aerophones - air is blown into the instrument.
    Membranophones - has a membrane which vibrates.
    Chordophones - has strings which vibrate.
    Idiophones - the whole instrument vibrates.
  - **ELECTRONIC** - Synthesizer, Tape recorder, amplified sounds, Sampled sounds

Consider the **COMBINATIONS**:
- Solo, Duet, Trio, Quartet etc
- Small ensemble, Large ensemble, Orchestra, Concert Band, Choir
- Rock band, Jazz band
- Brass ensemble, Woodwind ensemble, String Quartet
- Folk group

Comment on any **UNUSUAL COMBINATIONS**

Comment on any **UNUSUAL USE** of instruments
- Extremes of register
- Prepared piano

Comment on the **TECHNIQUES** used:
- Col Legno - hitting the strings with the wooden part of the bow.
- Sul ponticello - playing as close to the bridge as possible.
- Con sordino - with mute.
- Flutter-tonguing
- Distortion
- techniques e.g. pizzicato, mutes, tremolo, glissando, flutter tongue

Comment on the different **MOODS and EFFECTS** created - Warm, dark, nasal, somber, rumbling, brassy, eerie, majestic etc

Describe the CHANGES of tone colour as they relate to the formal structure.

Comment on the **REGISTER** of sound.