

Words and phrases to think about when answering the “Listen to this piece...” aural test question.

Texture:

Melody with accompaniment in two parts

Melody with chordal accompaniment

Two part texture / Contrapuntal / Polyphonic

Chords / Chordal passages

Arpeggio / broken chord accompaniment

Phrases in octaves

Single bass note on first beat followed by two chords, waltz-style

Imitative

Character:

Lively tempo / animated / joyful / spirited / playful / Bold / Vigorous

Quiet / Calm / restful / gentle / lyrical / graceful / sad / thoughtful

Serious / uniform loud dynamic / fanfare-like chords

Loud / Harmonic clashes / angry / forceful / energetic / Powerful, thick chords

abrupt changes between two ideas / rhythmic contrasts

Lilting, waltz-like triple metre / lilting rhythms / compound time

Regular repeating accompaniment / ostinato / repeating rhythms

Cantabile / Floating melody / Song-like / step-wise melody / decorative melody

Relaxed / flexible rhythm / swung rhythms / jaunty / jazzy / syncopation

'breathing spaces' between phrases / regular length phrases / balanced phrases

Major / Minor / Alternating or mixed tonality

Imitation

Clear and contrasting articulation / scalar runs / use of dissonance

Dynamic contrast

Structure:

Two equal length phrases

Two main sections, each with two phrases

Eight bar phrases

Short introduction

Three sections / ABA / major-minor-major

Similarity between sections / sharing material / same with elaboration

Differences between sections / contrasting introduction / contrasting material

Changes in tempo, articulation, tonality between sections

Balanced, regular four-bar phrases

Sections defined by melody and cadences

Tonality:

Often dissonant / unclear tonality

Alternates between major and minor

Brief section of minor key between major sections

Ends on a major chord

Minor key with chromatic notes

Major key with chromaticism

Jazz chords/harmonies/added notes

Use of unrelated chords