

Listening & Musical Awareness

Dynamics (volume of sound)

- Soft, *piano* (*p*)
- Moderately soft, *mezzo piano* (*mp*)
- Moderately loud, *mezzo forte* (*mf*)
- Loud, *forte* (*f*)

Articulation (the way a note or notes are played)

- Smooth, *legato*
- Short and detached, *staccato*

Tonality (key)

- **Major key:** bright and happy in sound.
- **Minor key:** sad, sombre and melancholic in sound.

Tempo (speed)

- Slow, *adagio*
- At a medium pace, *moderato*
- Moderately fast, *allegretto*
- Moderately fast, *allegro*
- Very fast, *presto*

Style and Character

What distinctive or noticeable features gives the music its overall style and character. To describe what the music is like, for example:

'The music was loud and moderately fast in pace. The character of the music was bold and energetic, with a lively feel.'

Supplementary questions

Key facts

- **Pulse or beat:** a regular and steady beat that runs throughout the music.
- **Rhythm:** different lengths of sound/note values that run over the pulse.
- **Chord:** a group of 2 or more notes played at the same time.
- **Texture:** layers of sound.

Identifying the instruments of the orchestra

There are four main sections of the orchestra:

- **Strings:** violins, violas, cellos and double bass.
- **Woodwind:** flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and occasional saxophone.
- **Brass:** French horn, trumpet, trombone, cornet, euphonium and tuba.
- **Percussion:** timpani, snare drum, bass drum, cymbals, triangle, tambourine.

For further information about the instruments of the orchestra and the different kinds of sounds they produce visit:

www.philharmonia.co.uk/resources/instruments

www.philharmonia.co.uk/resources/sound-samples

Designed to complement Aural MAT Practice Tests 1 - 4 and to enhance learning.