Musical forms and devices

Area of study 1 - Eduqas GCSE Music

eduqas

Baroque era (1600-1750)

- Harpsichord
- Ornaments
- Terraced dynamics
- Basso continuo
- Small orchestra (mostly strings, plus some wind)
- Suite, sonata, oratorio, chorales, trio sonata
- **Bach, Handel, Vivaldi**

Classical era (1750-1810)

- Slightly larger orchestra
- Piano introduced
- Alberti bass
- String quartets
- Symphony, solo sonata, solo concerto
- Balanced, regular phrases
- **Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven**

Romantic era (1810-1910)

- Lyrical, expressive melodies
- Large orchestra
- Wider range of dynamics
- Richer harmonies and use of chromatic chords
- Programme music
- Opera symphony
- **Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Schumann, Dvorak, Brahms, Verdi, Wagner**

Scales and chords

A **CHORD** is a group of two or more notes played at the same time. A **TRIAD** has three notes. A **CHORD SEQUENCE/ PATTERN** is a series of chords. **DIATONIC HARMONY** is based on the chords of major/minor scales.

Primary chords I, IV, V
Secondary chords ii, iii, vi, vii

C Major Scale

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TONIC	SUPERTONIC	MEDIANT	SUBDOMINANT	DOMINANT	SUBMEDIANT	LEADING NOTE	TONIC

C Major Triads

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii	I
C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°	C

C Major Scales

A Minor (Harmonic) Scale

Chromatic Scale on C

Blues Scale in C

Major pentatonic — G A B D E G

Minor pentatonic — G Bb C D F

Form and structure

BINARY   **A B**
Two sections: A usually ends in a related key (e.g. dominant or relative minor), but B returns to the tonic. B will contain with some change/contrast.

TERNARY   **A B A**
Three sections: section B provides a contrast (e.g. new tune key change). A may return exactly or with some slight changes.

RONDO   **A B A C A**
A longer form: A returns throughout the piece, with contrasting sections called 'episodes', containing new ideas and using different keys.

MINUET AND TRIO   **II: AB: II II:CD :II AB**
The minuet was a type of graceful dance from the 17-18th century, and was often used as the 3rd movement in symphonies in the Classical era. The minuet had two repeated sections, the trio had two new repeated sections, with a return to the minuet at the end (no repeat).

VARIATIONS   **A a A A 𝒜**
The main theme (tune) is repeated and developed a number of times in a variety of different ways.

STROPHIC   **A A A**
A simple form where the song uses the same melody over and over.

Devices

Repetition	A musical idea is repeated exactly.
Imitation	An idea is copied in another part.
Sequence	Repetition of an idea in the same part at a higher/lower pitch.
Ostinato	A short, repeated pattern or phrase.
Drone	A long held or constantly repeated note(s).
Arpeggio/ broken chord	The notes of a chord played individually.
Alberti bass	A broken chord accompaniment (I,V,iii,V) common in the Classical era.
Anacrusis	An 'up-beat' or pick-up before the first strong beat.
Dotted rhythms	A rhythm using dotted notes (gives a 'jagged' or 'bouncy' type of effect).
Syncopation	Off beat accents.
Conjunct	Notes that move in steps.
Disjunct	Notes that move in leaps/ intervals.
Regular phrasing	Balanced parts of a melody (like the phrases in a sentence) e.g. four bar phrases.

Cadences
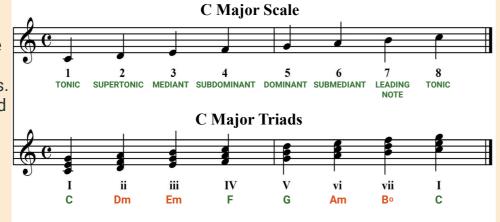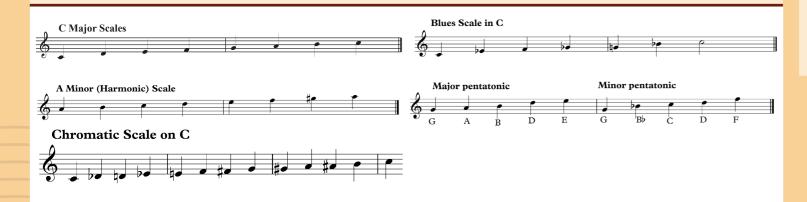*The two chords at the end of a phrase*

Perfect	V-I	Strong ending – sounds 'finished'; a musical full stop.
Plagal	IV-I	Sounds finished but 'softer'; Amen.
Imperfect	I-V, ii-V, vi-V	Sounds unfinished.
Interrupted	V-vi	Moves to an unexpected chord; 'surprise'.

Music terms and signs

Glossary - Eduqas GCSE Music

eduqas

Dynamics

pp	p	mp	mf	f	ff
PIANISSIMO	PIANO	MEZZO PIANO	MEZZO FORTE	FORTE	FORTISSIMO
very soft (v.quiet)	soft (quiet)	moderately soft	moderately loud	loud	very loud

crescendo (cresc.)	diminuendo (dim.)
gradually getting louder	gradually getting quieter

Tempo

LARGO	LENTO/ ADAGIO	ANDANTE/ MODERATO	ALLGRETTO	ALLEGRO/ VIVACE	PRESTO
v.slow	slow	walking pace/ moderate	quite fast	quick/lively	very quick

- **Accelerando:** gradually getting faster
- **Rallentando/ritardando:** gradually getting slower
- **A tempo:** return to the original speed
- **Ritenuto:** in slower time
- **Rubato:** rhythms are played in a more free/flexible way ('robbed time').

Time values

NOTE	NAME	LENGTH (duration)	REST
	Semibreve	4 beats	
	Minim	2 beats	
	Crotchet	1 beats	
	Quaver	½ beats	
	Semiquaver	¼ beats	

A dot after the note increases its length by half:

NOTE	NAME		REST
	Dotted minim		
	Dotted crotchet		

Groups of quavers/semiquavers are usually beamed together:

Terms and signs

#	Sharp	Raises a note by a semitone.
♭	Flat	Lowers a note by a semitone.
♮	Natural	Cancels a previous sharp or flat for a note.
	Staccato	Detached.
	Slur	Play smoothly.
	Tie	Hold the notes for the full value of the tied notes.
<	Accent	Emphasize the note (play forcefully).
	Pause	Hold the note longer.
sfz	Sforzando	Sudden stress/ accent.

Key signatures

C Major

G Major   D Major   A Major   E Major

F Major   Bb Major   Eb Major   Ab Major

F   C   G   D   A   E   B

Order of sharps # →   ← Order of flats b

time signature
treble clef   barline   repeat sign
stave
                                    bar
bass clef   notes   notes
                               on the lines   in the spaces
           key signature

Treble clef notes

Bass clef notes

Time signatures

Two crotchet beats per bar: simple duple

Two dotted crotchet beats per bar: compound duple

Three crotchet beats per bar: simple triple

Three dotted crotchet beats per bar: compound triple

Four crotchet beats per bar: simple quadruple

Four dotted crotchet beats per bar: compound quadruple

3

A triplet is when three notes are played in the time of two.

JS Bach: Badinerie

Form and structure:

The piece is in **Binary** form (**AB**).

Section A is 16 bars long.

Section B is 24 bars long.

Each section is repeated (**AABB**).

Harmony:

Diatonic; mixture of root position and inverted chords; uses V7 chords and a Neapolitan sixth chord.

Imperfect and perfect cadences are clearly presented throughout. Both sections end with a **perfect cadence**.

Melody:

The movement is based on **two musical motifs**.

Both motifs begin with an **anacrusis**. Motif X is entirely **disjunct** whilst motif Y **combines disjunct and conjunct** movement.

Typical **ornaments and compositional devices** of the period are used including **trills, appoggiaturas** and **sequences**.

Dynamics:

Mostly *forte* throughout, although no markings appear on the score.

On some recordings, **terraced dynamics** (sudden changes) are included.

Metre and rhythm:

Simple duple time – 2/4 – with two crotchet beats in every bar.

Uses **ostinato rhythms** which form the basis of two short musical ideas (X and Y), consisting almost totally of **quavers and semi-quavers**.

Background details:

Composed by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685 – 1750), one of the main composers of the **Baroque** era in music.

Badinerie is the last of seven movements from a larger piece called **Orchestral Suite No.2**.

The piece was composed between **1738-1739**.

Instrumentation:

Flute, string orchestra and harpsichord.

The score has five parts (flute, violin 1, violin 2, viola and cello). The harpsichord player reads from the cello line and plays the notes with their left hand whilst filling in the chords with their right hand.

Texture:

Homophonic: melody and accompaniment.

The flute and cello provide the main musical material; however, the 1st violin participates occasionally.

The 2nd violin and viola provide harmony with less busy musical lines.

Tonality:

Section A begins in **B minor** (tonic) and ends in **F# minor** (dominant minor).

Section B begins in **F# minor** (dominant minor) and ends in **B minor** (tonic).

Section A modulates from B minor through **A major** before arriving at F# minor.

Section B modulates from F# minor through **E minor, D major, G major** and **D major** before arriving at B minor.

Tempo:

The tempo is **Allegro** (quick, lively, bright), although not marked on the score.