

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sixth Grade Master Class in Musical Critique

How does a composer influence your pulse? Synthesize structural observations with cultural analysis to evaluate the power of global masterpieces.

1. When analyzing a minimalist composition like Terry Riley's 'In C,' how does the concept of 'emergent patterns' shift the listener's focus compared to traditional Western melody?

- A. It forces the listener to ignore individual instruments entirely.
- B. It emphasizes the evolution of texture through short, repeating cells.
- C. It requires the listener to identify a single, dominant 32-bar melody.
- D. It removes all rhythmic variance to focus solely on lyrics.

2. In the context of Jazz history, Duke Ellington's 'Black and Tan Fantasy' uses _____ to convey social commentary during the Harlem Renaissance.

- A. synthesized electronic beats
- B. strictly European folk scales
- C. the 'growl' trumpet style and blues motifs
- D. silence as the primary instrument

3. True or False: In a Fugue, such as those by J.S. Bach, the 'subject' is a short melody that is introduced in one voice and then imitated by others in a complex, overlapping structure.

- A. True
- B. False

4. During the Romantic era, composers like Clara Schumann used 'rubato' in their piano works. What is the primary artistic purpose of this technique?

- A. To maintain a strict, metronomic beat for dancing.
- B. To allow for expressive stretching and rushing of tempo for emotional effect.
- C. To ensure all instruments play at the exact same volume.
- D. To signal the end of a movement with a loud crash.

5. When comparing West African Polyrhythms to Western Pop music, the primary difference is the simultaneous use of multiple _____ that may not align on a single downbeat.

- A. conflicting lyrical languages
- B. independent rhythmic meters
- C. monophonic vocal lines
- D. identical drum patterns

6. True or False: Tone Poems, such as Debussy's 'Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune,' are designed to tell a specific story or evoke a mood without using words.

- A. True

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B. False

7. Synthesize your knowledge of instrumentation: How does the use of the 'theremin' in 20th-century film scores affect the listener's psychological experience compared to a string quartet?

- A. It creates a sense of historical accuracy and traditionalism.
- B. It evokes an eerie, otherworldly feel because of its electronic, sliding pitch.
- C. It makes the music sound like a marching band.
- D. It reduces the dynamic range to a whisper.

8. Evaluating the 'Aria' in an opera like Puccini's 'Turandot,' this section serves as a moment for a character to ____ rather than to advance the physical plot.

- A. exit the stage quickly
- B. perform a silent dance
- C. express deep internal emotion through song
- D. tune their instruments

9. If you are analyzing the 'timbre' of a piece of Japanese Gagaku music, which of these would you be evaluating?

- A. The speed or tempo of the percussion.
- B. The specific 'color' or quality of the Hichiriki's piercing sound.
- C. The total length of the performance in minutes.
- D. The price of the tickets for the concert.

10. True or False: In Renaissance polyphony, as seen in the works of Palestrina, all voices move together in the exact same rhythm and notes, creating a single melody line (monophony).

- A. True
- B. False