

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sonic Structures and Cultural Echoes 7th Grade Quiz

Deconstruct polyphonic textures and analyze how 19th-century nationalism influenced orchestral compositions through critical listening and structural evaluation.

1. In Bedřich Smetana's 'Ma Vlast,' the recurring 'Moldau' theme represents a river flowing through Bohemia. Which musical concept best describes using a melody to represent a specific non-musical idea?

- A. Program music
- B. Absolute music
- C. Atonality
- D. Minimalism

2. In a Fugue, such as those by J.S. Bach, the texture is primarily homophonic because all voices move in the same rhythm to support a single melody.

- A. True
- B. False

3. When analyzing the 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst, listeners often note the use of irregular time signatures like 5/4 in 'Mars, the Bringer of War.' This rhythmic choice is used to create a sense of:

- A. Stability and peace
- B. Mechanical predictability
- C. Instability and tension
- D. Romantic sentimentality

4. Analyzing Fela Kuti's 'Zombie' requires understanding 'Afrobeat.' Which two cultural/musical influences primarily merged to form this specific genre?

- A. Opera and Bluegrass
- B. Nigerian Highlife and American Funk
- C. Reggae and Gregorian Chant
- D. Classical Sonatas and Heavy Metal

5. In the 'Dies Irae' section of Verdi's Requiem, the sudden, crashing use of the bass drum and brass at a fortissimo level is an example of _____ being used to evoke terror.

- A. Dynamics
- B. Tempo
- C. Timbre
- D. Articulation

6. The use of 'Pentatonic scales' in Claude Debussy's 'Voiles' was heavily influenced by his exposure to Javanese Gamelan music at the 1889 Paris Exposition.

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- A. True
- B. False

7. When evaluating a piece in 'Theme and Variations' form, such as Haydn's 'Surprise Symphony,' what is the listener's primary analytical task?

- A. Identifying when the piece switches to a different key entirely
- B. Tracking how the core melody is modified through rhythm, harmony, or tone color
- C. Counting the total number of instruments used in the orchestra
- D. Timing the duration between movements

8. Béla Bartók's 'Concerto for Orchestra' is notable for its use of 'Ethnomusicology.' This means Bartók specifically researched and incorporated _____ into his formal compositions.

- A. Electronic synthesizers
- B. Folk music of rural populations
- C. Bird calls and nature sounds
- D. Mathematical equations

9. A 'Leitmotif' is a short, recurring musical phrase associated with a particular person, place, or idea, commonly found in the operas of Richard Wagner.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which analytical lens would you use to discuss why Dmitri Shostakovich included a repetitive, 'militaristic' march in his Symphony No. 7 during the Siege of Leningrad?

- A. Acoustic physics
- B. Historical and political context
- C. Anatomical performance technique
- D. Marketing and sales trends