

**GCSE Music Crucial Knowledge
Study 1: Forms and Devices**

Baroque Era
Music composed from
1600-1750



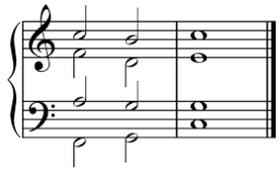
Classical Era
Music composed from
1750 - 1810



Romantic Era
Music composed from
1810 - 1910



Tonality
The key of the music – major,
minor, pentatonic scale



Form and Structure
How the music is organised to
give it shape and balance. Each
section of music is usually
labelled with a capital letter.

Theme and Variation
Once the main theme has been
played, the **composer** repeats
it with a variation. This can be
repeated several times. E.g.
variation 1, variation 2 etc.



Composer
A person who writes music.



Meter
Beats in a bar



Beat
A rhythmic pulse

Bar
Small sections of music, containing a
certain number of beats.

Tempo
Speed of the beat in a piece of
music

Binary
AB form (section A followed by
section B)

Ternary
ABA form (second A, section B,
then a return of section A)

Rondo
ABACA (A section keeps
returning)

**GCSE Music Crucial Knowledge
Study 2: Ensemble**



Ensemble
A group of musicians performing together.

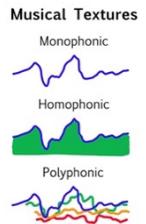
Polyphonic
A more complex style, where the melody (or melodies) are in imitation or in **counterpoint**

Monophonic
A single melodic line with no harmonies or other melodies

Counterpoint
Combining two or more melodic lines

Melody
The tune of the music

Texture
The way that the **melody, chords** and musical ideas have been woven together (the layers of music)



Unison
When all parts are playing the same music at the same pitch

Chords
Two or more notes played at the same time

Homophonic
A melody plus chords (chordal style)

Pitch
How high or low a note sounds



**GCSE Music Crucial Knowledge
Study 3: Film Music**

Film Music
Music to accompany film or television scenes – appreciating how musical elements are used to create the mood and atmosphere.



Leifmotif
A recurrent musical idea representing a person, place, feeling or idea.

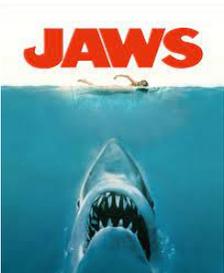
The music that plays when Darth Vader enters the scene is an example of Leifmotif



Atmosphere
This refers to how music can influence the scene. E.g., happy, sad, intimidating feeling created through the music.

Timbre or Sonority
The timbre or sonority of an instrument or voice is the colour, character or quality of sound it produces.

Non-Diegetic
When the music or sound in a film can only be heard by the audience and not the character e.g., music that creates an atmosphere.



Dynamics
The volume or 'loudness' in music.

Tempo
How fast or slow a piece of music is played.



Diegetic
Music or sound in a film that can be heard by both the audience and the characters, e.g., if a character is listening to a song.



**GCSE Music Crucial Knowledge
Study 4: Popular Music**



Popular Music

Music that appeals to popular culture e.g. rock, pop, soul, hip hop, ballad, reggae, minimalism, bhangra



Chorus

Section of a song which has the same music and lyrics when repeated.



Bar Blues

A repeated chord pattern associated with the blues.

Verse

Section of a song which has the same music but different lyrics when repeated



Cadences

Musical punctuation – a chord sequence that creates a sense of finality or a pause



Ostinato

Continually repeated phrase or idea

Syncopation

Placing the stress on weaker beats

Improvisation

Immediate, 'in the moment' composition