Year 10 Music: Phase 4

Unit 201ta: Song Analysis Prep

Song Analysis practice - *Skyfall* performed by Adele

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeumyOzKqgI

In Phases 2 and 3, you have looked at the 5 aspects of music that you will eventually have to analyse in *your* chosen song. For Phase 4, you are going to practice analysing all these aspects of just one song, *Skyfall*.

- Watch Video 6 so you can 'mark' your production technique 'homework' (Task 5) from Video 5 first.
- Attempt every section of this document, **on Google Classroom is at all possible**
- Try your best - it will help me see where I can help you!
- Feel free to write in bullet points, sentences, or a mix of the 2 - as long as it's clear what you mean!
- Read the tasks carefully - they give you hints as to where you find info that will help you. (Your Phase 2 and 3 workbooks will be super helpful)
- When you're finished, send this document back to me by 'turning it in' on Google Classroom.
- Feel free to break this up - you don't have to do it all in one go!
- As always, email me if you need help or have a question.

Full Video 6 playlist here: https://bit.ly/2AmFUMd
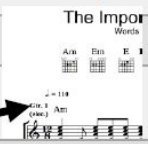
KEY VOCAB and CONTENTS

Vocab	Definition	Pages
Composer	A person who makes up/creates the music	n/a
Producer	A person who put the parts of the song together during and after recording	n/a
Tempo	**Speed** of the music	**3-4**
Instrumentation	The **instruments** used in the music	**5-6**
Lyrical Content	**Words** and their meanings	**7-10**
Tonality	The **'character'** of a piece of music, based on its key and other pitch features	**11-13**
Production Techniques	**Effects applied** to an instrument or recording	**14-15**

SKYFALL CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

- 2012 **ballad** for James Bond movie *Skyfall*.
- This harks back to the "classic" Shirley Bassey Bond themes - big sound, lots of instruments (especially brass and strings!), soulful
- Worth listening to these famous Bond themes for context:
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9FzgsF2T-s
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6D1nK7q2i8I
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnSbrx5YByY

- Adele well- known for big, soulful ballads. Ballads often quite slow tempo.
- FIlm the song is very dark and dramatic, and very emotional for James Bond himself. Climax takes place at Skyfall.

TEMPO

Speed of the music

How can we describe tempo?

	For example...	
General adjectives	• Fast/slow • Bouncy	Just this? Good
Specific speed description	• BPM - Beats Per Minute (number of beats in every minute)	Add this? Better
Italian technical vocab	• Lento = slower • Andante = at a walking pace • Moderato = at a moderate speed • Allegretto = fast but not too fast • Allegro = fast • Presto = very fast • Accelerando = getting quicker • Rallentando = getting slower	Add this too? The best!

Reminder of the type of language you could use.

How can we work out beats per minute (BPM)?

1. Tap along to the beat of the music
2. Count how many beats you tap in 15 seconds
3. (taps in 15 seconds) x 4 = beats per min

Example:

Version	Describe the tempo (Pass)	Why might the composer choose this tempo? (Merit+)
Billy Ocean	ADJECTIVE - bouncy BPM - around 80bpm TECHNICAL VOCAB - intro slower (*andante*), then main song faster tempo (*allegretto*)	STYLE - this tempo is typical of the electro/soul genre - not a surprise! MESSAGE - It's meant to be about the thrills and sense of danger of being attracted to someone - Happiness, although singer is conflicted a bit, ultimately it's about positive emotions - fast-ish tempo makes it sound a bit chaotic like his emotions - emotional rollercoaster

TEMPO
Speed of the music

TASK:

➔ **Listen to** *Skyfall***.** Focus only on the tempo (speed).
➔ **Fill in column A,** using the previous page and your Phase 2 work to help you.
➔ **Fill in column B.** Read the contextual information on page 2 - this *may* hold a clue! Remember you are making an informed guess.

A: <u>Describe</u> the tempo (Pass)	B: <u>Why</u> might the composer choose this tempo? (Merit+)
Adjective(s):	**Link to style?:**
BPM:	**Link to message?:**
Technical vocab:	

INSTRUMENTATION
The **instruments** used in the music

How can we describe instrumentation?

	For example…	
Identify individual instruments	• Electric guitar • Voice • Nose flute	Just this? Good
Identify groups of instruments	• Brass band • Choir • Jazz quintet • Nose flute choir	Add this? Better - if relevant
Explain role/importance of instrument	• In the verses the guitar is just one of the backing instruments, playing chords In the chorus it takes a lead role playing some of the melody (which is finger-picked)	Add this too? The best!

Reminder of the type of language you could use.

Example:

| Lover – Taylor Swift | INSTRUMENTS - drum kit, piano, bass, acoustic guitar, piano, effects-laden backing vocals, main female vocals, some exciting violins plucking away later on!

ROLES -
Intro just bass and kit
Piano comes in for thicker texture in the first chorus.
The focus of this song is the vocals. Everything else os very soft and in the background. | STYLE - Guitar, bass and vocals is a typical country combo. The instrumentation is generally quite pared back, in-keeping with the country influences.
MESSAGE - simple message; simple instrumentation. |

INSTRUMENTATION
The **instruments** used in the music

TASK:

➔ **Listen to *Skyfall*.** Focus only on the instrumentation (instruments).
➔ **Fill in column A,** using the previous page and your Phase 2 work to help you.
➔ **Fill in column B.** Read the contextual information on page 2 - this *may* hold a clue! Remember you are making an informed guess.

A: <u>Describe</u> the instrumentation (Pass)	B: <u>Why</u> might the composer choose these instruments? (Merit+)
Instruments:	Link to style?:
Role of instruments:	Link to message?:

LYRICAL CONTENT
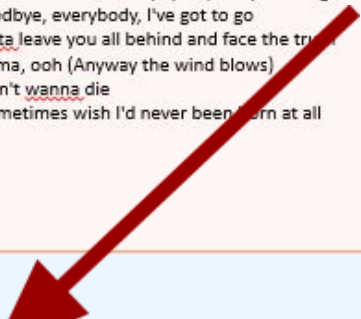### Words and their meanings

	For example…	
Identify main message of song	• "This song explores the mixed feelings of the protagonist who is still healing emotionally after a break-up so is asking his new potential love interest to give him some time."	**Just this?** Good
Analyse the lyrics - provide some insight into their meaning	• Language techniques and their effect!	**Add this?** Better
Explain how the words link to the music itself/style	• "There is a lot of juxtaposition in the lyrics between 'dark' and 'light' concepts, which is matched in the music itself by the contrast between bass and soprano voices, and low chords with high-pitched piano melody.	**Add this too?** The best!

Reminder of the types of analysis you could do.

Examples:

(Annotations - what can you see?)

[Intro]
Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?
Caught in a landslide, no escape from reality
Open your eyes, look up to the skies and see
I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy
Because I'm easy come, easy go, little high, little low
Any way the wind blows doesn't really matter to me, to me

[Verse 1]
Mama, just killed a man
Put a gun against his head, pulled my trigger, now he's dead
Mama, life had just begun
But now I've gone and thrown it all away
Mama, ooh, didn't mean to make you cry
If I'm not back again this time tomorrow
Carry on, carry on as if nothing really matters

[Verse 2]
Too late, my time has come
Sends shivers down my spine, body's aching all the time
Goodbye, everybody, I've got to go
Gotta leave you all behind and face the truth
Mama, ooh (Anyway the wind blows)
I don't wanna die
I sometimes wish I'd never been born at all

- Message of song not so clear on first...or hundredth... listen!

- In some places (verse 3 in particular) music is more upbeat, maybe even 'happy', but lyrics are Very Not Happy (including talk of the devil (Beezlebub) - he thinks he's going to hell)

- Every verse different - like a story - and it's all very hectic and disjointed - protagonist's descent into insanity!??

[Verse 3]
I see a little silhouetto of a man
Scaramouche, Scaramouche, will you do the Fandango?
Thunderbolt and lightning, very, very frightening me
(Galileo) Galileo, (Galileo) Galileo, Galileo Figaro magnifico
But I'm just a poor boy, nobody loves me
He's just a poor boy from a poor family
Spare him his life from this monstrosity
Easy come, easy go, will you let me go?
Bismillah! No, we will not let you go
(Let him go!) Bismillah! We will not let you go
(Let him go!) Bismillah! We will not let you go
(Let me go) Will not let you go
(Let me go) Will not let you go
(Let me go) Ah
No, no, no, no, no, no, no
(Oh, mamma mia, mamma mia) Mamma mia, let me go
Beelzebub has a devil put aside for me, for me, for me!

[Verse 4]
So you think you can stone me and spit in my eye?
So you think you can love me and leave me to die?
Oh, baby, can't do this to me, baby!
Just gotta get out, just gotta get right outta here!

[Outro]
Nothing really matters, anyone can see
Nothing really matters
Nothing really matters to me
Any way the wind blows

- Not a clear chorus - not a standard song structure

- Verse 3 - turning to anyone/anything for help!

- Verse 3 - lots of repetition and some rhyming - reminds you of kids book or nursery rhyme, but this is not so innocent!

- Alluding to social issues? Poverty? HIV/AIDS? LGBT+?

- Seems very personal - Freddie talking about his life? Poor boy/poor family

Song	Describe the lyrical content (Pass)	How do the words, music and song style link together? (Merit+)
The Man - Taylor Swift	**Overall, what's it all about?** Erm....who knows!? Speculation that it could be about Freddie Mercury's experience of being LGBT+. Protagonist is clearly distressed and feeling alone	STYLE - the words make about as much sense as the mishmash of styles! It somehow works. And it's very typical of Queen's music. MUSIC - In the: • rock section - guitars and drums and ARGH - matches the angst in the lyrics, although it does sound surprisingly 'major'/positive - quite defiant. • Opera section - words are very dramatic and there's the opposition of bismillah (invoking god) and beezlebub (devil) which matches the drama of the operatic style and the opposition between the very high and very low pitches of the voices • Ballad sections - the words are very 'woe is me', which matches with the piano ballad style.

(Your interpretations - what does it mean and why was it done?)

LYRICAL CONTENT
Words and their meanings

TASK:

➔ **Listen to *Skyfall*.** Focus only on the lyrical content (words).
➔ **Annotate the lyrics (p.10),** like you would with a poem in English. What can you see?
➔ **Fill in column A,** using the previous page, your annotations (p.10) and your Phase 2 work to help you.
➔ **Fill in column B.** Read the contextual information on page 2 - this *may* hold a clue! Remember you are making an informed guess.

A: <u>Describe</u> the lyrical content (Pass)	B: How do the words, music and song style <u>link together</u>? (Merit+)
Overall, what's the song about?:	**Link to style?:**
	Link to music?:

Lyrics - space to annotate

This is the end Hold your breath and count to ten Feel the earth move and then Hear my heart burst again For this is the end I've drowned and dreamt this moment So overdue I owe them Swept away, I'm stolen **Let the sky fall** **When it crumbles** **We will stand tall** **Face it all together** **Let the sky fall** **When it crumbles** **We will stand tall** **Face it all together** **At skyfall** **At skyfall** Skyfall is where we start A thousand miles and poles apart Where worlds collide and days are dark You may have my number, you can take my name But you'll never have my heart		**Let the sky fall** **When it crumbles** **We will stand tall** **Face it all together** **Let the sky fall** **When it crumbles** **We will stand tall** **Face it all together** **At skyfall** Where you go I go What you see I see I know I'd never be me Without the security Of your loving arms Keeping me from harm Put your hand in my hand And we'll stand **Let the sky fall** **When it crumbles** **We will stand tall** **Face it all together (x2)** **At skyfall** **Let the sky fall** **We will stand tall** **At skyfall**	

TONALITY
The **'character'** of a piece of music, based on its key and other pitch features

How can we describe tonality?

	For example…	
Identify if major or minor overall	• Major (happy) • Minor (sad)	**Just this?** Good
Identify the specific key or scale used	• C major • B minor • Blues scale - **C**, D, D♯/E♭, E, G, A (major) or **C**, E♭, F, F♯/G♭, G, B♭ (minor) • Modal (unlikely!) - uses modes, which are scales built ENTIRELY on the white notes of the keyboard. *E.g. Aeolian mode starts on A and just uses all the white notes up to the next A.*	**Add this?** Better
Identify particularly interesting tonal features	• Chord progression(s) used (e.g. C, F, Am, G) • Change from major to minor in different sections of the song • Any interesting chords, like a Cadd9	**Add this too?** The best!

Reminder of the type of language you could use.

REMEMBER: major = positive; minor = sad/dramatic

Example:

| Never Fallen in Love - The Buzzcocks | MAJOR/MINOR - minor overall, but there is an upturn to the major in the last 2 lines of the chorus 'ever fallen...you shouldn't have fallen in love with'

SPECIFIC KEY - C# minor

ANYTHING INTERESTING - chords are basic, but does use 6 of them - a bit more complex than some punk songs | STYLE - Minor is not an uncommon punk tonality. The change to major at the end of the chorus is more surprising though.

MESSAGE - minor tonality matches the sadness/desperation of the lyrics to an extent. Major in the chorus - it's not all bad?? |

TONALITY

The **'character'** of a piece of music, based on its key and other pitch features

TASK:

➔ **Listen to** *Skyfall*. Focus only on the instrumentation (instruments).
➔ **Fill in column A,** using the next page (p13) to help you - everything you need is there.
➔ **Fill in column B.** Read the contextual information on page 2 - this *may* hold a clue! Remember you are making an informed guess.

A: <u>Describe</u> the tonality (Pass)	B: <u>Why</u> might the composer choose this tonality? (Merit+)
Major/minor?: **Specific key?:**	**Link to style?:**
Anything interesting?:	**Link to message?:**

TONALITY KEY INFO

Chords

```
[Verse 1]
      Cm           G#   F
This is the end
Fm                 Cm          G#    F
Hold your breath and count to ten
Fm              Cm        G#     F
Feel the Earth move and then
Fm              Csus2/D#   G
Hear my heart burst again

         Cm           G#    F
For this is the end
        Fm                        Cm     G#   F
I've drowned and dreamt this moment
      Fm         Cm     G#    F
So overdue I owe them
Fm                Csus2/D#   G
Swept away I'm stolen

[Chorus]
        Cm
Let the sky fall
Cm/A#      G#
When it crumbles
G#/G     F
We will stand tall
F/D#          Dm7b5 Gsus G
And face it all together
```

REMEMBER - Cm means C **minor;** C means C **major.**

Key

Skyfall chords by **Adele**

1,314,070 views, added to favorites 31,646 times

Difficulty: intermediate
Tuning: E A D G B E
Capo: 3rd fret
Key: Cm

PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES
Effects applied to an instrument or recording

Reminder of the type of language you could use.   Example:

What production techniques can we listen out for?		
Technique	**Definition**	**For example…**
Mix levels	How the track is mixed, i.e. the relative volumes of each instrument or vocal.	• You know you listen to a recording sometimes and the vocal just doesn't feel quite loud enough - that's a problem with the mix - the voice is too quiet compared to other instrument.
Panning	The way the track is presented in stereo sound (the balance between left and right). Where each instrument sounds like it's coming from. Are different instruments or vocals more prominent on one side (one ear!) of the recording?	• Ever listen to a song and it seems like the sound is moving from one ear to the other - that's panning! • 8D music relies on panning to create that surround-sound, moving effect.
Effects	Processes added to sounds to alter their characteristics. There's LOADS!	• Reverb - A6 vs T4 • Delay - similar to echo • Compression - make vocals, bass and drums more even • EQ - enhancing certain frequencies • Chorus - loads of you! Ambient! • Flange and Phasing - wibbly and weird!
Samples	You can 'sample' music from someone's' song (e.g. Vanilla Ice samples Queen/Bowie in *Ice ice Baby*), but you can also sample non-musical sounds.	• Chatter, birds tweeting, traffic - anything!

Describe the mix - very tick texture - lots of percussion (drums, cymbals, whistles, etc), brass, bass, backing vox **Panning?** **Effects?** Delay on B's vox in Jay Z verse; overdubbed close harmony in middle 8, moments B's voice sound, brass probably been compressed' |… too even and not 'brassy enough' **Samples?** *Are You My Woman (Tell Me So)*	STYLE - typical of 00's RnB - heavy production - clean, polished sound. MESSAGE/FEEL - dance style matches the feel-good, deliriously happy message, and the polished production helps shape this.

Basically ask: **does this sound like it would if I'd recorded this in a classroom?**

If no, there's probably been some sort of effect added! The more you listen, the more you get to recognise what's going on.

PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

Effects applied to an instrument or recording

TASK:

➔ **Listen to** *Skyfall.* Focus only on the instrumentation (instruments).
➔ **Fill in column A,** using the previous page and your Phase 3 work to help you.
➔ **Fill in column B.** Read the contextual information on page 2 - this *may* hold a clue! Remember you are making an informed guess.

A: <u>Describe</u> the production techniques (Pass)	B: <u>Why</u> might the producer choose these techniques? (Merit+)
Describe the mix: **Panning?:**	**Link to style?:**
Effects?: **Samples?:**	**Link to message/feel?:**