

Musical forms and devices

Area of study 1 - WJEC GCSE Music

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**

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.

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

C Major Triads

C Major Scales

Blues Scale in C

A Minor (Harmonic) Scale

Major pentatonic

Minor pentatonic

Chromatic Scale on C

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'.