

Twenty Questions – Pitch

TEACHERS – Log on to www.conceptsofmusic.com.au, go to the PITCH page and play each excerpt for the students. The order they are in on the site corresponds with the order of questions below.

STUDENTS - While listening to the pieces of music your teacher plays for you, answer the following questions...

Remember – if the question says to **DESCRIBE**, that means you have to elaborate on the points you make. Be *descriptive*!

1. Describe the shape (contour) of the main melody you can hear in **Axel F** by Harold Faltermeyer (Beverly Hills Cop). Is it angular? Wave shaped? Does it have small intervals or large?

2. Would you describe the accompaniment of the bells heard throughout **Marry You** by Bruno Mars as parallel harmony or arpeggios? Why? What is the difference between the two?

3. Using one word, how would you describe the melodic contour of the opening synthesizer melody in **Ring A Ling** by The Black Eyed Peas?

4. In **Chick Magnet** by MXPX, the bass is playing a walking bass line. What does this mean? Describe what the bass guitar is playing.

5. The piano introduction in **Caves** by Jack's Mannequin has an upward chromatic movement. How many times is the opening phrase (musical sentence) played?

6. How would you describe what is happening melodically, in this excerpt of **One Day More** from Les Misérables?

7. Listen to the electronic, melodic instrument during the introduction of *If You Seek Amy* by Britney Spears. Is it **imitating** the voice, or is it **doubling** the voice? What is the difference between the two?

8. During the first verse of *I Want You (She's So Heavy)* by The Beatles, is the guitar **imitating** the voice, or is it **doubling** the voice?

9. Listen to *The Musical Offering* by JS Bach. Does the harpsichord **double** the flute melody or **imitate** it?

10. In *Grace Kelly* by Mika, you can hear the male voice use 'falsetto'. Which of the following two sentences best describes the use of this technique by Mika? (Circle A or B)

A) The male voice uses falsetto to sing in a higher **register**, which extends the **range** of the melody.

B) The male voice uses falsetto to sing in a higher **range**, which extends the **register** of the melody.

11. *Tears In Heaven* by Eric Clapton is in 4/4. Do the chords change every two beats or four beats and when does this pattern vary?

12. Listen to the beginning of *Shout* by The Isley Brothers. On which word does the melisma occur? What is a melisma?

13. How would you describe the melodic range in *Hello, I Love You* by The Doors? Which one word would be the exception to this?

14. How would you describe the melodic **range** in *Manana Iguana* by Bobby McFerrin?

15. A pedal point is when one note is repeated (or sustained) whilst the chords or the harmony continue to change. Which instrument (the guitar or the bass guitar) holds the pedal point in *Hangar 18* by Megadeth?

16. Which instrument holds the pedal point (the guitar or the vocals) in *You Keep Me Hanging On* by The Supremes?

17. Which instrument holds the pedal point in *Notion* by Kings of Leon?

18. A melodic sequence is when a section of the melody is repeated by the same instrument, at a higher or lower pitch. Does the horn section, or the guitar play a sequence in *I'm Gonna Find Another You*?

19. Is a sequence played by the brass section at the start of *River Deep, Mountain High* by Ike and Tina Turner? If so, describe it.

20. On which word, can we hear a sequence in *Angels We Have Heard On High*?

The majority of these questions were kindly shared with www.conceptsofmusic.com.au by Theresa Therese – many thanks!



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ANSWERS

Twenty Questions – Pitch

1. Describe the shape (contour) of the main melody you can hear in **Axel F** by Harold Faltermeyer (Beverly Hills Cop). Is it angular? Wave shaped? Does it have small intervals or large?

The melody is angular and contains many wide leaps (large intervals)

2. Would you describe the accompaniment of the bells heard throughout **Marry You** by Bruno Mars as parallel harmony or arpeggios? Why? What is the difference between the two?

The bells are arpeggiated, which means that a chord is broken into separate notes and then usually played ascending/descending. Parallel harmony is when there is a movement of two melodies in the same direction, keeping the same interval between them.

3. Using one word, how would you describe the melodic contour of the opening synthesizer melody in **Ring A Ling** by The Black Eyed Peas?

Ascending

4. In **Chick Magnet** by MXPX, the bass is playing a walking bass line. What does this mean? Describe what the bass guitar is playing.

The bass guitar is playing in crotchets and generally follows a step-wise or scalar motion.

5. The piano introduction in **Caves** by Jack's Mannequin has an upward chromatic movement. How many times is the opening phrase (musical sentence) played?

Twice

6. How would you describe what is happening melodically, in this excerpt of **One Day More** from Les Misérables?

There are several times when two melodies are sung at the same time. What sets them apart from a harmony is that they are rhythmically independent. They may create harmonies at times, but these are incidental. Both melodies are important.

7. Listen to the electronic, melodic instrument during the introduction of **If You Seek Amy** by Britney Spears. Is it **imitating** the voice, or is it **doubling** the voice? What is the difference between the two?

Doubling the voice – it occurs at the same time, whereas imitation occurs immediately after.

8. During the first verse of **I Want You (She's So Heavy)** by The Beatles, is the guitar **imitating** the voice, or is it **doubling** the voice?

The guitar is doubling the voice.

9. Listen to **The Musical Offering** by JS Bach. Does the harpsichord **double** the flute melody or **imitate** it?



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The harpsichord imitates the flute melody.

10. In **Grace Kelly** by Mika, you can hear the male voice use 'falsetto'. Which of the following two sentences best describes the use of this technique by Mika? (Circle A or B)

A) The male voice uses falsetto to sing in a higher register, which extends the range of the melody.

11. **Tears In Heaven** by Eric Clapton is in 4/4. Do the chords change every two beats or four beats and when does this pattern vary?

They change every two beats in the verses, every four beats in the chorus.

12. Listen to the beginning of **Shout** by The Isley Brothers. On which word does the melisma occur? What is a melisma?

'We-e-e-ll'. Melisma is when a vocalist sings one syllable, while moving between several different notes

13. How would you describe the melodic range in **Hello, I Love You** by The Doors? Which one word would be the exception to this?

Small melodic range – the exception would be the 'Hello!' exclamation

14. How would you describe the melodic range in **Manana Iguana** by Bobby McFerrin?

Very wide melodic range

15. A pedal point is when one note is repeated (or sustained) whilst the chords or the harmony continue to change. Which instrument (the guitar or the bass guitar) holds the pedal point in **Hangar 18** by Megadeth?

The bass guitar

16. Which instrument holds the pedal point (the guitar or the vocals) in **You Keep Me Hanging On** by The Supremes?

Guitar

17. Which instrument holds the pedal point in **Notion** by Kings of Leon?

Electric Guitar

18. A melodic sequence is when a section of the melody is repeated by the same instrument, at a higher or lower pitch. Does the horn section, or the guitar play a sequence in **I'm Gonna Find Another You**?

The horn section plays a short, three note, ascending sequence

19. Is a sequence played by the brass section at the start of **River Deep, Mountain High** by Ike and Tina Turner? If so, describe it.

Yes. It is a bright, five note, descending melodic line played at a fast tempo.

20. On which word, can we hear a sequence in **Angels We Have Heard On High**?

'Glo-o-o-o-o-ria'

