

Fifteen Questions - Duration

TEACHERS – Log on to www.conceptsofmusic.com.au, go to the DURATION 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. A backbeat is described as a strong emphasis (accent) on beats 2 and 4 (in 4/4 time). Is there a backbeat in *Why Don't We Do It In The Road* by The Beatles? Which instrument allows us to hear it clearly?

2. - **Diminution** is the repetition of a subject or theme, in notes of **shorter** duration than those first used.

- **Augmentation** is the repetition of a subject or theme, in notes of **longer** duration than those first used.

The guitar solo in *My Apocolypse* by Escape The Fate is an example of diminution or augmentation?

3. Hemiola can be described as the effect created when three notes of equal value are played in the time normally occupied by two. It has the feeling of three against two (as opposed to just a 'triplet feel'). In *America* from West Side Story, during which word can you hear an example of hemiola?

4. In *House of the Rising Sun* by The Animals, which instrument is playing the same rhythmic pattern throughout?



5. How would you describe what happens to the rhythmic feel when Pink finishes the countdown (after the second verse) in **Funhouse**?

6. How would you describe what the electric guitar is playing throughout most verses of **Sex On Fire** by Kings of Leon?

7. Listen to the introduction of **Viva La Vida** by Coldplay very carefully. Which bars have emphasised syncopation? Is it bars 1 & 3, or bars 2 & 4?

8. Describe what happens to the tempo after 2:25 **Come on Eileen** by Dexy's Midnight Runners. What is the Italian term used to describe this change?

9. How would you describe the rhythm of the piano in **Hold The Line** by Toto?

10. The verse of **Hey Ya!** by Outkast contains 3 bars of $\frac{4}{4}$, a bar of $\frac{?}{4}$ and two more bars of $\frac{4}{4}$. What is the ? missing in this time signature?

11. **I Say A Little Prayer** by Dionne Warwick uses several different time signatures. How many beats are in each bar in the chorus?

12. **Charlie Brown** by Coldplay uses an 8-bar chord progression that is mostly in $\frac{4}{4}$. The only exception is the second bar in each progression which is in...

13. **Touch and Go** by The Cars contains an example of **polymetre**. This is when two different time signatures are being used simultaneously. In this example, the synth and voice are in $\frac{4}{4}$, while the drums and bass are playing in a different time signature. What is this time signature?

14. **La Mer** by Nine Inch Nails also contains an example of **polymetre**. The piano and drums play in two different time signatures - what are they?

15. The majority of **Sickfest** by Grinspoon is in $\frac{4}{4}$, but the introduction is not. Is the intro in $\frac{5}{4}$ or $\frac{7}{4}$?

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



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ANSWERS

Fifteen Questions - Duration

1. A backbeat is described as a strong emphasis (accent) on beats 2 and 4 (in 4/4 time). Is there a backbeat in *Why Don't We Do It In The Road* by The Beatles? Which instrument allows us to hear it clearly?

Yes, there is a backbeat, played clearly by the snare drum

2. - **Diminution** is the repetition of a subject or theme, in notes of **shorter** duration than those first used.

- **Augmentation** is the repetition of a subject or theme, in notes of **longer** duration than those first used.

The guitar solo in *My Apocalypse* by Escape The Fate is an example of diminution or augmentation?

The guitar solo contains an example of diminution

3. Hemiola can be described as the effect created when three notes of equal value are played in the time normally occupied by two. It has the feeling of three against two (as opposed to just a 'triplet feel'). In *America* from West Side Story, during which word can you hear an example of hemiola?

There is an example of hemiola on the word 'A-mer-i-ca'

4. In *House of the Rising Sun* by The Animals, which instrument is playing the same rhythmic pattern throughout?

The guitar plays the same rhythmic pattern throughout the song

5. How would you describe what happens to the rhythmic feel when Pink finishes the countdown (after the second verse) in *Funhouse*?

When the countdown finishes after the 2nd verse, the song has a shuffle feel

6. How would you describe what the electric guitar is playing throughout most verses of *Sex On Fire* by Kings of Leon?

The electric guitar is playing syncopated quavers throughout the verse

7. Listen to the introduction of **Viva La Vida** by Coldplay very carefully. Which bars have emphasised syncopation? Is it bars 1 & 3, or bars 2 & 4?

Bars 2 & 4 have emphasised syncopation

8. Describe what happens to the tempo after 2:25 **Come on Eileen** by Dexy's Midnight Runners. What is the Italian term used to describe this change?

The music gradually speeds up (accelerando)

9. How would you describe the rhythm of the piano in **Hold The Line** by Toto?

The piano is playing chords with a triplet feel in 4/4

10. The verse of **Hey Ya!** by Outkast contains 3 bars of 4/4, a bar of ?/4 and two more bars of 4/4. What is the ? missing in this time signature?

2/4 – The verse contains 3 bars of 4/4, a bar of 2/4 and two more bars of 4/4

11. **I Say A Little Prayer** by Dionne Warwick uses several different time signatures. How many beats are in each bar in the chorus?

The chorus has 11 beats in a bar (11/4)

12. **Charlie Brown** by Coldplay uses an 8-bar chord progression that is mostly in 4/4. The only exception is the second bar in each progression which is in...

The second bar in each progression is in 2/4

13. **Touch and Go** by The Cars contains an example of **polymetre**. This is when two different time signatures are being used simultaneously. In this example, the synth and voice are in 4/4, while the drums and bass are playing in a different time signature. What is this time signature?

The drums and bass are playing in 5/4

14. **La Mer** by Nine Inch Nails also contains an example of **polymetre**. The piano and drums play in two different time signatures - what are they?

The piano plays in 3/4, while the drums are in 4/4

15. The majority of **Sickfest** by Grinspoon is in 4/4, but the introduction is not. Is the intro in 5/4 or 7/4?

The introduction is in 5/4

