

Radio / Video

While listening to 'Radio/Video' by System of a Down,

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIDzPUt20F4>)

answer the following questions...

1. Circle the words that *best* describe the first 30 seconds of this piece

Clean	Electric Guitar	Accelerando	Staggered entry	
Thin	Busy	Forte	Acoustic Guitar	Arco
Distorted	Crescendo	Bass Guitar	Largo	

2. How would you describe what happens to the music from 0:25-0:27?

3. The first two sections (0:00-0:27 and 0:28-0:54) of this piece are clearly different. Below, list the musical reasons why...

4. Does the tempo change at 0:54? Explain your answer.



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[illegible]

7. In terms of the concept of Duration, what is the biggest change we can see in the music at 2:18?

8. How would you describe the melodic material of the guitar solo at 2:37?

9. In one word, how would you describe what happens to the music once the guitar solo starts at 2:37, right through to 3:35?

10. In your previous answers, you have identified many ways in which variety or CONTRAST is created in this piece of music. Below, discuss some ways in which UNITY is created.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ANSWERS

Radio / Video

While listening to 'Radio/Video' by System of a Down,

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1wSFZdidSk>)

answer the following questions...

1. Circle the four words that *best* describe the first 30 seconds of this piece

Clean

Electric Guitar

Accelerando

Staggered entry

Thin

Busy

Forte

Acoustic Guitar

Arco

Distorted

Crescendo

Bass Guitar

Largo

2. How would you describe what happens to the music from 0:25-0:27?

There is a small ritardando (slowing down of the tempo)

3. The first two sections (0:00-0:27 and 0:28-0:54) of this piece are clearly different. Below, list the musical reasons why...

Texture thickens with a drastic change in instrumentation. Dynamic level changes from *p* to *ff*. Guitar plays heavy, distorted chords rather than picked pattern. Simple percussion part played by maraca is replaced by full drum kit at very loud dynamic level. Vocals are aggressive and forced, whereas first section vocals were soft, doubling a descending guitar line.

4. Does the tempo change at 0:54? Explain your answer.

No, the tempo stays the same but there are many changes that could suggest a change in tempo. For example, the sudden change in texture and instrumentation. Syncopated chords are introduced in the accordion (or similar) and the backbeat played by the snare on beats 2 & 4 becomes more obvious now, with a change in feel from the drums. There is always a pulse and it stays consistent throughout the change between these two sections.



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5. Describe the use of Pitch from 0:54 to 1:21.

The second vocalist imitates the lyrics performed by the first vocalist in a call and answer style. This eventually leads to countermelody when both vocalists are singing equally interesting and rhythmically independent melodies. The melodies generally move in a step-wise motion. Harmonies are created between the two voices utilising a minor tonality.

6. There is a repetition of musical material heard earlier, from 1:35 to 2:18. How is it performed differently this time? In your answer, make sure you discuss texture, dynamics and expressive techniques.

TEXTURE - The piece remains homophonic throughout, but there are significant, sudden changes in texture. Changes in the role and the tone colour of the electric guitar affect the texture, as do the vocal parts.

DYNAMICS - The dynamic level of the piece gradually decreases after about 8 bars (*diminuendo*), highlighting a change in expression in the voice. There are then several sudden dynamic changes, focusing the listener's attention on the word 'radio'.

EXPRESSIVE TECHNIQUES - The most obvious changes in expressive techniques are in the vocals. The performers initially use soft, melodic, breathy voices with vibrato during the *diminuendo*, but then become harsh and forced, with little focus on accuracy of pitch when singing the word 'radio'.

7. In terms of the concept of Duration, what is the biggest change we can see in the music at 2:18?

The tempo gradually becomes slower (*ritardando/rallentando*)

8. How would you describe the melodic material of the guitar solo at 2:37?

The guitar melody primarily moves in step-wise motion. A simple rhythmic pattern is used and several small phrases are repeated within a larger structure, which again, is repeated. The vocals then double the guitar melody for several bars until they become independent again.

9. In one word, how would you describe what happens to the music once the guitar solo starts at 2:37, right through to 3:35?

Accelerando

10. In your previous answers, you have identified many ways in which variety or **CONTRAST** is created in this piece of music. Below, discuss some ways in which **UNITY** is created.

- Repetition of entire sections creating a recognisable macro-structure (familiar verse/chorus structure)
- Use of two male vocalists with complimenting tone colours
- Consistent use of natural minor tonality throughout
- Repetition of lyrics within sections



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