

‘OPEN-ENDED’ QUESTION

The open-ended question is basically an indication to you to write down as much information as you can about the music that you hear. You will normally get **4 or 5** hearings of a complete piece that is **clearly broken down into different sections or verses etc.**

Marks are awarded for every relevant comment or observation that you make, but to get the marks make sure you:

- Make clear comments.
- Don't contradict yourself.
- Don't repeat yourself too much, unless you have to (you can only get 2,3 or 4 marks for the same thing e.g. dynamics.)

ANSWERING THE QUESTION

It is best to divide the task into shorter parts to be completed on each hearing. The easiest method that I have developed to cover the most points is:

Hearing 1 – General Points!

- **Diatonic – It is tonal (in a key).**
- General description of the **form. INCLUDE INTRODUCTIONS, INSTRUMENTALS & CODA.**
- How many **beats-per-bar / Meter.**
- General description of the performing **voices and instruments.**
- Type of **vocal group** e.g. Male Voice Choir.
- Type of **instrumental group** e.g. Brass Band / Orchestra.
- General description of the **Tonality (Major or Minor).**
- General description of **tempo** e.g. **slow *andante*.**
- General description of **dynamic** e.g. **loud *forte*.**
- Written in the **20th Century.**
- **Simple Time / Compound Time**

Hearing 2 – What & Where?

- Detailed **list of** what **performers** are used where.
- List **what/who joins in and drops** out where.
- List **what/who** has the **lead or important parts / instruments**.
- **Texture – heavier & lighter.**
- **Structure – strophic OR ABA (Ternary)**

Hearing 3 & 4 - Changes

I would advise you to list consider very carefully what has had many changes of instruments but also changes in the way that they are used. There may also be other changes to consider such as:

- Do the **rhythms** get **livelier** or **calmer**.
- Changes in **dynamics**. (loudness)
- Changes in **tempo**. (speed)
- Changes in **tonality**. (major / minor)
- **Are there any new tunes or parts added to a section?** Sometimes a *countermelody* is added over a verse, often the guitar part of a **middle 8** is used over the verse or chorus that is sung at the end.
- **Pauses / held notes (x2)**

FINAL POINTS

- There is no definitive list of all things that you can mention, so if there is something else that you can mention then please, please, please say it.
- **You have ten minutes at the end to write up your answers, so work in rough and put it in order at the end. Keep your points short, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO USE COMPLETE SENTENCES.**

