

Aural Perception Summary Challenge

What?

- Challenge yourself on your ability to analyse time signatures, harmonies, melodies and rhythms.

How?

- Listen to the songs listed below and answer the questions to each one.

Why?

- This serves as a summary of all of the concepts covered so far and allows us to gauge progress in terms of how we apply theoretical ideas in a practical setting.

1. Time Signatures

The following songs are written in either 3/4 or 6/8. Listen to them first, then decide what time signature each one is written in.

- 'Only Love Can Break Your Heart' by Neil Young
- 'Way Out of Here' by Porcupine Tree
- 'Strange and Beautiful (I'll Put a Spell on You)' by Aqualung

These songs are written using uncommon time signatures. Listen carefully and try to decipher each one. Hint: They may use more than one time signature!

- 'The Grudge' by Tool
- 'Just So You Know' by American Head Charge
- 'Stay As You Are' by Span

2. Melodies, Intervals and Rhythms

Listen to the opening melodies of the following songs. Use the accompanying sheet to transcribe the melodies in full. Hint: There are clues regarding the rhythms used and the key of the songs.

- 'Miss You' by the Rolling Stones (write the intervals between each note and identify the key of the song).
- 'Bitter Sweet Symphony' by The Verve (using the given rhythm, find the correct pitches of the opening string melody and write them on your manuscript).
- 'Sir Duke' by Stevie Wonder (identify the key and transcribe the opening brass melody on your manuscript).

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3. Harmony and Tonality

Listen to the songs listed below and, using the accompanying sheet, identify, explain and analyse the chords, chord progression and tonality of each song. You should use your knowledge of diatonic harmony to help label each chord with Roman Numerals, identify any cadences and justify the key you think the song is written in.

- 'Can't Explain' by The Who (using the given key signature and chords, identify the tonality of the song, write the Roman Numerals above each one and highlight the chord that does not belong to the diatonic harmony of the key).

- 'Tear Drop' by Massive Attack (using the given key signature and chords, identify the tonality, write the Roman Numerals above each one and highlight the chord that features a displaced root note).

- 'Mrs Robinson' by Simon and Garfunkel (using the chords, use Roman Numerals to explain what chord progression is being used, highlight and cadence points and any other unique aspects about the harmony).

- 'In the Waiting Line' by Zero 7 (identify the key, write the chords and chord progression, explain any other interesting ideas that are featured in the harmony and how they influence the tonality).

Self-Assessment

On a scale of one to ten, how do you think you coped with the above questions?

...../ 10.

What did you do well on?

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What do you feel you could improve on?

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How could you improve on the aspects you found challenging?

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