Name _____ Date _____

The Elements of Music: Melody, Harmony, Rhythm, Timbre, Texture and Form

Directions: Musicians use the terms in this activity to talk about how a piece of music is put together. Picture the music each question describes before you choose.

1. Each of these words names one part of how music works. Match each word to its meaning.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ melody
2. _____ harmony
3. _____ rhythm
4. _____ timbre
5. _____ texture
6. _____ form

Choices for question 1

A. how many parts sound at once and how they combine, making the music thick or thin

B. a tune made of single notes that follow one another

C. how loud or soft the music is

D. the way long sounds, short sounds and silences are arranged in time

E. tone color, the quality that makes each voice or instrument sound like itself

F. different notes sounding together, often as chords that support a tune

G. the way a whole piece is laid out in sections, and the order they come in

H. the words that are sung

2. After a concert, Ava hums the main tune of her favorite song, one note at a time. Which of these is she humming?

A. form B. harmony C. texture D. melody

3. A choir sings a song twice. The first time, everyone sings the tune on the same notes. The second time, some singers switch to different notes that blend with the tune, but everyone keeps the same words and rhythm. Which term names the way the different notes sound together the second time?

A. rhythm B. harmony C. melody D. form

4. Complete the sentence about the drum pattern.

Word bank

rhythm • harmony • timbre • melody

With no tune at all, a drummer taps a long sound, two short ones and another long one, over and over, on a single drum. That repeating pattern is a _____.

5. A flute and then a trumpet play the same note, just as loud and for just as long. Even so, the two sound different. Which term explains the difference?

A. form B. timbre C. rhythm D. harmony

6. Choose the word that describes how the song changes.

Word bank
texture • rhythm • melody • form

A song begins with one voice alone. A guitar joins in, and then drums and a second singer, so by the end the _____ is much thicker.

7. A pop song is laid out as verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, chorus. Which term do those section names describe?

A. form B. timbre C. texture D. harmony

8. Two drummers play the exact same pattern of long and short sounds. The first plays it slowly, and the second plays it much faster. Which statement is true?

A. They play the same rhythm at different tempos.

B. They play different melodies at different tempos.

C. They play the same melody at the same tempo.

D. They play different rhythms at the same tempo.

9. In a school band, the trumpets play the tune while the trombones play lower notes that fit with it. Which choice names each section's job?

A. Trumpets: melody. Trombones: form.

B. Trumpets: form. Trombones: harmony.

C. Trumpets: harmony. Trombones: melody.

D. Trumpets: melody. Trombones: harmony.

10. Which two terms are both about sounds that happen at the same time?

A. melody and rhythm B. form and rhythm

C. melody and form D. harmony and texture