




Harmony-KS4 Knowledge Organiser

Harmony: ANY notes which accompany the melody.

Harmony Key Terms	Definition
Diatonic	Diatonic music stays in a key. We can certainly say that all Baroque and Classical music is Diatonic and this is an easy mark in the exam when we are asked to describe Harmony.
Chromatic	Chromatic comes from the Greek 'chromos' meaning colour. Chromaticism is where notes from outside the key are used to decorate or add colour to the music. We see a lot of chromaticism in the Romantic period as composers started to stretch the boundaries of traditional diatonic conventions. Lots of chromaticism can create dissonance which sounds clashy and horrible-think horror soundtracks!
Pedal	A pedal note can be a long held note OR where the same note is repeated for a while. We use the term pedal note when describing music from the western classical tradition.
Drone 	A drone is a long held note (like a pedal note) but we use the term 'drone' when describing music from folk traditions i.e. Oriental /Indian music.
Major 	Major tonality is where the piece is in a major key i.e. our set work (Haydn's Clock Symphony movement 2) begins in the key of G major. Major tonality and major chords sound more optimistic/happy.
Minor 	Minor tonality is where the piece is in a minor key. Our set work (Haydn's clock Symphony movement 2) modulates/changes key and moves into G minor for a while. Minor tonality and chords sound mysterious/sad.
Tierce de Picardie	Tierce de Picardie is a harmonic device that happens in older music (think Baroque) and it occurs at the end of a section or, usually, at the very end of the piece. It is where the last bar suddenly changes key. If my whole piece has been major but I end on a minor chord OR my whole piece was minor but I finished with a major chord this is Tierce de Picardie.
Cadences	The term 'Cadence' means to fall. I cadence all the time. This causes bruising. In music, however, it is a pleasant fall (usually). When one chord falls to another chord we get cadences. There are two cadences for finishing a melody; the Perfect cadence and the Plagal cadence. The other two cadences we need to know are the interrupted cadence and the imperfect cadence-they often happen during the melody rather than at the end. It is best that you listen to them lots to get an idea of how they sound as you will be asked to identify them in the exam BUT if you are stuck always make an educated guess. The answer is often 'Perfect' but don't quote me on this. Use the link below to listen to examples online: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8tsh39/revision/1

Questions about Harmony from Past Papers

Q: Identify three features of the harmony used in this excerpt that are typical of the classical period.

Answers:

- Mainly uses primary chords (I, IV and V)
- regular cadence points
- diatonic

Q: Identify three features of the harmony used in this excerpt that are typical of the Blues.

Answers:

- Only uses primary chords (chords I, IV and V)
- Only uses major chords
- Follows 12 bar blues chord pattern

Q: Name the Harmonic Device used in this excerpt.

Answer:

- Drone/Pedal note