

The Elements of Music and their definition

These are essential to know for every topic at KS3! These elements of music are involved in every topic over the 3 years at KS3.

1. Dynamics - The volume of the music

RAG

2. Duration- The length of a sound

RAG

3. Harmony- The relationship of notes

RAG

4. Melody - The main tune

RAG

5. Metre - How many beats in a bar

RAG

6. Pitch - How high or low the sound is

RAG

7. Rhythm - The pattern of the notes

RAG

8. Structure - The sections of the music

RAG

9. Tempo - The speed of the music

RAG

10. Timbre - The sound of an instrument

RAG

11. Tonality - The mood of the music

RAG

12. Chords = A chord is where multiple notes are played at the same time. Commonly a 3 note chord is played.

13. Key signatures - A key signature is a set of notes and chords that all link together. When making your rap backing track make sure your loops all come from the same key.

Knowledge Organiser: Rap

14. Loops - A loop on Logic is when a midi or audio file is repeated on loop.

15. Bar - A bar in music is a measurement of time. Most RAP music is in 4/4 metre so each bar adds up to 4 beats.

16. Pop song structure - This often consists of an introduction, verse and chorus sections, a middle 8/break and an outro.

17. Tongue twisters - Actors, singers and performers to name a few uses these to ensure clarity in their speech. Artists like Eminem will have had to practice tricky phrases in the past to be able to perform with such speed.

18 - Decks - These were originally used to isolate the percussive beats of hip hop tracks allowing the rap artists to spit rhythms over the top.

19. Scratching - Invented by Grandmaster Theodore, scratching is where you manually move the record forward and backward on the turntable creating a scratching noise.

20. Freestyle - This is a rap technique where the rap artists improvises on the spot over a theme or topic. Often rap artists like to rhyme what they say, to ensure they stay out of a fray. The keep it hip, they keep it real, they make sure they sound the best so they seal the deal!