

A Level Music Technology: Glossary

Articulation	
Staccato	
Tongued	
Legato / slurred	
Pizzicato	
Arco	
Tremolo	
Accent	
Sforzando	
Dynamics	
Fortissimo	
Forte	
Mezzo forte	
Mezzo piano	
Piano	
Pianissimo	
Crescendo	
Diminuendo	
Harmony	
Diatonic	
Dissonant	
Atonal	
Chromatic	
Microtonal	
Chords and types of chords (major, minor, seventh, tonic, sub-dominant, dominant, blue note)	
Cadences (perfect, imperfect, plagal, interrupted.)	

Block chords/chordal	
Arpeggio/broken chord	
Triad	
Comping	
Primary triads	
Simple harmony	
Harmonic progression	
Harmonic rhythm	
Modulation (tonic, sub-dominant, dominant, relative minor, relative major)	
Drone	
12 Bar blues	
Instruments/Ensembles/Timbre	
Orchestral instruments and their families	
Piano, harpsichord, organ, cello	
Duet, trio, quartet	
Jazz group	
Electronic an pop instruments	
Melodic and compositional devices	
Repetition	
Sequence	
Imitation	
Ostinato	
Inversion	
Riff	
Improvisation / improvised	
Dialogue, question and answer phrases, call and response	
Walking bass	

Fills, stabs	
Hook	
Melody/Pitch	
Stepwise, scalar, passing note	
Leap	
Interval (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, octave)	
Unison	
Tone	
Semitone	
Microtone	
Scales (Major, minor, chromatic, blue scale)	
Mode	
Range	
Bend/slide/glissando	
Notation	
Note lengths and rests from semibreve to semiquaver including dotted notes and triplets	
Pitch names and their places on the treble clef from G below the stave to C above the stave.	
Stave, score	
Treble and bass clefs	
Bar and double bar lines, repeat marks	
Key signatures and keys up to at least four sharps and flats.	
Time signatures: simple duple, triple, quadruple and compound duple.	
Sharp, flat, natural	

Phrase marks, tie	
Ornaments, decoration and their signs: trill, turn, mordent, acciaccatura, grace note.	
Rhythm	
Anacrusis/up-beat	
Off-beat/syncopation, dotted	
Metre/pulse	
Irregular metre	
Rest/silence	
Cross-rhythm, polyrhythm	
Swung/swing rhythm	
Structure	
Binary form	
Ternary Form	
Rondo Form	
Variation	
Strophic, through composed	
Round, canon	
Introduction, coda, bridge, tag	
Cadenza	
Verse and chorus	
Instrumental break, middle eight	
Technology	
Synthesiser	
Drum machine	
Mixing desk	
Sequencer	
Multitracking	

Overdubbing	
Amplification	
Sampler / sampling	
Scratching	
DJ, decks	
Looping, groove	
Panning	
MIDI, computer	
Distortion	
Vocoder, quantising	
Remix, collage, overlay	
Delay	
Reverb	
Compression	
Equalisation (EQ)	
Frequency	
Sample rate	
Condenser microphone	
Dynamic microphone	
Audio Interface	
XLR cable	
Balanced cable	
Tempo	
Largo	
Andante	
Moderato	
Allegro	
Vivace	
Presto	
Accelerando	

Rallentando/ritenuto	
Allargando	
Rubato	
Pause	
Texture	
Solo, monophonic	
Homophonic/chordal	
Polyphonic, contrapuntal, counterpoint	
Unison	
Parallel motion	
Contrary motion	
Counter melody, descant, obbligato	
Melody and accompaniment.	
Tonality	
Key: major and minor	
Basic modulations (e.g. tonic – dominant)	
Chord progression	
Voices/Ensembles/Timbre	
Voice types: soprano, alto, tenor, bass	
A cappella	
Syllabic, melismatic	
Solo, lead singer	
Backing vocals	
Chorus/choir	
Scat Singing	