

Year 7 Listening



Listen to this extract from "Mars" by Holst.
Clue: using Italian words will get you two marks, instead of one!

What are the dynamics at the very start of the piece?
(2)

What do the dynamics do when the brass instruments enter?
(2)



How would you describe the tempo of the piece?
(2)

Name three instruments you can hear at any point throughout the extract.

(3)

1)

2)

3)

Mars is the 'Bringer of War'. What is war-like about this music?

(1)

LEVEL: TOTAL: (10)

Gustav Holst wrote "The Planets" between 1914 and 1916 – a suite of 7 pieces, each describing one of the planets (apart from Earth), and lasting almost an hour in total. Mars is the first piece and lasts 7 minutes.

Holst only wrote 7 pieces because Pluto wasn't discovered until 1930 – long after Holst had composed his other planets. In 1999, a composer called Colin Matthews composed a piece for Pluto.

Use this space for further work on "Mars" and "The Planets".

Suite (pronounced 'sweet') = a collection of shorter pieces making a larger whole

Year 7 Answers



Listen to this extract from "Mars" by Holst.
Clue: using Italian words will get you two marks, instead of one!

What are the dynamics at the very start of the piece?
(2)

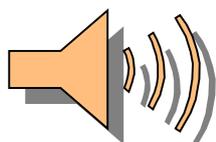
Quiet, very quiet, soft, very soft (1 mark for one of these)

Piano, pianissimo, mezzo piano (2 marks for one of these)

What do the dynamics do when the brass instruments enter?
(2)

Get louder, increase (1 mark)

Crescendo (2 marks)



How would you describe the tempo of the piece?
(2)

Fast, fairly/moderately/quite/pretty/very fast (1 mark)

Allegro, allegretto, moderato (2 marks)

Name three instruments you can hear at any point throughout the extract.

(3)

Accept any three valid orchestral instruments. 1 mark each.

Mars is the 'Bringer of War'. What is war-like about this music?

Any valid answer, e.g. "It is fast", "It is loud", "It has lots of drums/percussion", "It has lots of brass instruments" etc. 1 mark for a valid answer.

TOTAL: (10)

10 (Or 9 with final question correct)

Level 5

6-9

Level 4

3-5

Level 3

0-2

Level 2