**The Elements of Music**

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 Pitch

 High and low



 Duration Dynamics

 Beat (notes the same length) Loud and soft

 and rhythm (notes different lengths)

Tempo Timbre Texture

 **Fast and slow Type of sound Layers in the music**

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**Italian Terms: optional - you will not gain extra marks**

Use when describing music

To describe the tempo:

adagio = slow

allegro = fast

moderato = a medium speed

accelerando = getting gradually faster

rallentando = getting gradually slower

  

To describe the dynamics:

Forte = loud

Piano = soft

Mezzo forte = medium loud

Mezzo piano = medium soft

Crescendo = gradually getting louder

Diminuendo = gradually getting softer

  

keywords

**12 Bar Blues**

**12 bar blues** *– traditional length of a verse in a Blues song*

**AAB** *– the structure of the lines of lyrics in a Blues song. The first and second lines are the same and the third is different.*

**Harmony** *– the chords used to accompany the melody*

**Metre** *– A Blues has 4 beats in a bar or a time signature of 4/4*

**Swing rhythm** *– the ‘humpty-dumpty’ rhythm*

**Improvisation** *– making up a melody on the spot*

**Spiritual** *– a religious song which influenced the Blues with its expressive singing style, slow tempo and lyrics about life*

**Work song** *– a song to work to which influenced the Blues with its steady beat, call and response and lyrics about life*





***Instruments associated with the Blues***

Voice

 Guitar

Electric Guitar (from 1940 onwards)

 Harmonica

Piano









**The impact of the Blues….**

The Blues went on the influence other styles of music.

In 1950’s, Rock and Roll musicians used 12 bar blues harmony as a basis for their songs. In songs like; Jailhouse Rock and Rock Around the Clock. From then on, the Blues influenced Rock and Pop music.

