

# Form and Structure

## Exploring Musical Structures



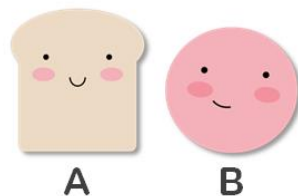
### A. Question and Answer Phrases

Two short sections in a piece of music. The first **QUESTION PHRASE** is followed by the **ANSWER PHRASE** which in some way copies or answers the first – like a ‘musical conversation’. The **MELODY** below shows the opening of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” - notice how the **QUESTION PHRASE** rises in **PITCH** and the **ANSWER PHRASE** descends in **PITCH**.



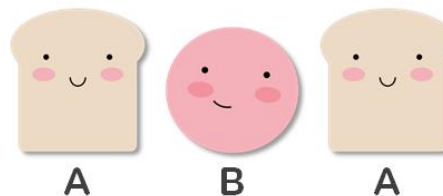
### B. Binary Form

**BINARY FORM (AB)** describes music in two sections. The first section can be labelled “A” and the second section “B” (either or both sections may be repeated). The “B” section **contrasts** musically in some way to the first “A” section.



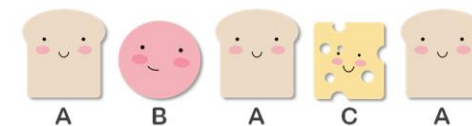
### C. Ternary Form

**TERNARY FORM (ABA)** describes music in three sections. The first section can be labelled “A” and the second section “B”. The “B” section **contrasts** in some way to the first “A” section which is then **repeated** after the “B” section again.



### D. Rondo Form

**RONDO FORM (ABACADA...)** describes music where a main **theme** or **melody “A”** keeps returning between different contrasting sections “B, C, D...” (called **episodes**)



### E. Key Words

- 1. FORM/STRUCTURE** – How a piece of music is organised into different sections or parts.
- 2. PHRASE** – A short section of music, like a “musical sentence”.
- 3. PITCH** – The **highness** or **lowness** of a sound or musical note.
- 4. MELODY/THEME** – The main **tune** of a piece of music. The melody or theme often varies in **pitch** and “good melodies” have an organised and recognisable shape.
- 5. HARMONY** – Playing two or more notes at the same time. The “harmony part” in music is different to the melody part.
- 6. DRONE** – A repeated note or notes of **long duration** played through the music. When two notes are used, they are often **five** notes apart (a **fifth**).
- 7. OSTINATO** – A repeated musical pattern. An ostinato can be a repeated rhythm or a repeated melody and are usually short.

### F. Music Theory

#### Treble Clef Pitch Notation



C D E F G A B c' d' e' f'

Treble Clef “Lines” Note Names

Treble Clef “Spaces” Note Names

Repeat Mark



E G B d' f'



F A c' e'

