**GCSE – TIPS on the wording of certain questions in the exam….**

The question may ask for :-

1. **A MELODIC DEVICE**

examples: repetition, ostinato, sequence, imitation, scalic, arpeggio,

1. **A RHYTHMICAL DEVICE**

Highly likely to be Syncopation! Others…ostinato, cross rhythm

1. **A HARMONIC DEVICE**

examples: cycle of 5ths (in QUEEN), GROUND BASS, PEDAL,

A question may ask about **INSTRUMENTAL/VOCAL TECHNIQUE.**

Examples**: GUITAR** – plucked/ strummed/ pitch bend/ slide (QUEEN & SAMBA pieces)

**VOCAL** – falsetto (QUEEN), Melisma (MUSIC for a While)/ spoken (Wicked, Queen, Afro Celt),

Vocalising (Queen ooh’s & aahs), Afro celt at start.

**STRINGS** – tremolo (Wicked),

A question may ask about **VOCAL SETTING. Answer either Syllabic or Melismatic**

A question about **HARMONIC RHYTHM** means**…. how many chords per bar (eg. faster in chorus of Queen)**

A question about **TESSITURA –** means **what is the average pitch? Answer = low or high.**

If the question asks about **interesting characteristics, it can be anything musical. Think about DR SMITH.**

**Remember……..METRE means time signature.**

**If asked about similarities & differences…remember DR SMITH.**

The answer can be something as obvious as ‘same dynamics’, ‘same chord sequence’, ‘different lyrics’, ‘different melody’, different instruments..etc

A question asking you to **Describe the MELODY** - Comment on the pitch direction…does it go up or down?

A question about **Describe the RHYTHM** – is it quavers? Crotchets? repetitive? Also remember **SYNCOPATION**

**Describe the Harmony** – possible answer…major or minor

**Describe the tempo –** slow? Fast? Or does it change..accel? rit? Look at the marks. If it’s 2 marks, this would suggest a change somewhere…eg. It starts slowly and then speeds up (accels)

**What’s the cadence?** – highly likely, answer is **PERFECT**

**Name the Melodic Interval** – answer probably going to be a 3rd, 5th or octave.

**DESCRIBE the accompaniment – this is quite a general question…. Therefore remember DR SMITH**

**example answers…**chordal? Homophonic? Played by the bass guitar? Loud? Pizzicato…

**MUSICAL DICTATION**

Probably played 4 times…listen twice for the rhythm & twice for the melody.

For the rhythm…..look at the time signature….add up the rhythm given to you and make sure your answer adds up correctly. Don’t write anything silly that doesn’t mathematically add up!

For the melody……Look at what’s given to you in the rest of the music……it’s highly likely that part of the answer will appear somewhere in the music that’s already given to you.