

Middle School Music Theory Fundamentals

Music Theory · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the symbol that represents a sound that lasts for a specific duration?

- A) Sharp
- B) Natural
- C) Note**
- D) Flat

2. Which symbol raises a note's pitch by a half step?

- A) Flat
- B) Sharp**
- C) Natural
- D) Crescendo

3. Which symbol lowers a note's pitch by a half step?

- A) Sharp
- B) Natural
- C) Flat**
- D) Fermata

4. How many beats does a whole note typically receive in common time (4/4)?

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 4**

5. How many beats does a quarter note typically receive in common time (4/4)?

- A) 1**
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 4

6. Which of these is the shortest common note duration?

- A) Half note
- B) Quarter note
- C) Eighth note**
- D) Whole note

7. What is the symbol that cancels out a sharp or a flat?

- A) Sharp
- B) Flat
- C) Natural**
- D) Fermata

8. What is the term for the speed of the music?

- A) Dynamics
- B) Tempo**
- C) Melody
- D) Harmony

9. Which clef is commonly used for higher-pitched instruments and voices, like the violin or soprano?

- A) Bass clef
- B) Treble clef**
- C) Alto clef
- D) Tenor clef

10. Which clef is commonly used for lower-pitched instruments and voices, like the cello or bass?

- A) Treble clef
- B) Alto clef
- C) Bass clef**
- D) Soprano clef

11. What do the lines and spaces on a staff represent?

- A) Rhythm
- B) Duration
- C) Pitch**
- D) Dynamics

12. How many lines are there in a musical staff?

- A) 4
- B) 5**
- C) 6
- D) 7

13. What is a series of notes played one after another called?

- A) Harmony
- B) Rhythm
- C) Chord

D) Melody

14. What is the term for the loudness or softness of the music?

- A) Tempo
- B) Pitch

C) Dynamics

D) Rhythm

15. What is a group of three or more notes played at the same time called?

- A) Melody
- B) Rhythm
- C) Harmony

D) Chord

16. What does the time signature 4/4 indicate?

A) 4 beats per measure, and a quarter note gets one beat

- B) 3 beats per measure, and a half note gets one beat
- C) 4 beats per measure, and a whole note gets one beat
- D) 2 beats per measure, and an eighth note gets one beat

17. What is the name of the symbol that indicates a pause in the music, usually longer than a normal rest?

A) Staccato

B) Fermata

- C) Accent
- D) Legato

18. Which of these is a rest that signifies silence for the duration of a quarter note?

- A) Half rest
- B) Whole rest

C) Quarter rest

D) Eighth rest

19. What is the term for the distance between two notes?

- A) Chord
- B) Interval**
- C) Melody
- D) Rhythm

20. What are the fundamental building blocks of music, representing different pitches?

- A) Rests
- B) Notes**
- C) Measures
- D) Beats