

# Distance learning quizzes and activities

KS3

## Jane Werry

### Why quizzes?

At this time of enforced distance learning, music teachers need strategies for work to set their multiple classes that give maximum value for minimum marking time. Multiple-choice quizzes can be set up to be self-marking, so that students get instant feedback on how they've done. All the teacher has to do is harvest the results to keep an eye on how things are going.

If you're sceptical about the value of multiple-choice questions, I would urge you to think again. Carefully thought-out multiple-choice questions can unearth misconceptions and give teachers a surprisingly valuable view into student understanding. The key is to be aware of what the potential misconceptions might be, and to set these as plausible distractors in the list of possible answers. For example, one misconception that repeatedly crops up among my students is the difference between A flat and A minor: some of them seem to think that A minor is a note that is found to just to the left of an A. We return to this idea again and again to reinforce correct knowledge.

A good multiple-choice question includes these plausible distractors. Here is an extremely poor multiple-choice question, purely for the purpose of illustration:

### Q: When was the Battle of Hastings?

- ▶ A 1066
- ▶ B Henry VIII
- ▶ C Last Tuesday
- ▶ D Cupcakes
- ▶ E My cat

Here, 'last Tuesday' is the best plausible distractor – at least it's a date, albeit a very unlikely one. The rest of the answers are obviously not correct, so the value of asking this question is pretty much zero.

In the quizzes that follow, I have tried to include as many plausible distractors as possible. Some of these include made-up but plausible-sounding names and terminology.

All the quizzes involve watching a short video first to cover the content, and then a ten-question quiz. These can be set alongside ongoing project or creative work to put together a meaty package of work for your students.

### Creating a self-marking multiple-choice quiz

The idea here is that once the quiz is set up, all the teacher has to do is share it with students and then harvest the results once students have done the work.

Depending on your school's systems, you may already have something in place for creating this kind of quiz. If not, there are still some really great options open to you. Anyone can create a self-marking quiz in Google Forms, and then simply share a link to distribute it. Here is a video explaining how ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKIU5zcwS4A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKIU5zcwS4A)). You can even include feedback on incorrect answers, to give added value in terms of tackling those persistent misconceptions.

If you have Microsoft Office 365, you can do the same in Microsoft Forms. Here is a tutorial ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=W31JF7pQtgo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W31JF7pQtgo)).

In the quizzes below, the correct answer is always listed first, simply because some packages require you to put in the correct option at the top of the list, and then shuffle the order for you. Check to see if your system works in this way. If not, you will need to mix up where the correct answer comes in the list.

### How music is put together

This is the very first 'knowledge' homework that I set Year 7. If students don't understand these things, then everything that follows will seem very confusing. We revisit this knowledge constantly.

Here is the video to watch first (<https://youtu.be/G2muzl7RJgs>).

Jane Werry is a Specialist Leader in Education, and Director of Music at Hayes School in Bromley. She is a Musical Futures Champion Teacher, and co-author of the award-winning *Being a Head of Music: A Survival Guide*.



**1: What is another word for melody?**

- ▶  Tune
- ▶  Chord
- ▶  Bassline
- ▶  Note
- ▶  Rhythm

**2: A melody is made of two things. What are they?**

- ▶  Pitch and rhythm
- ▶  Chords and a beat
- ▶  Pitch and a beat
- ▶  Bassline and chords
- ▶  Rhythm and bass line

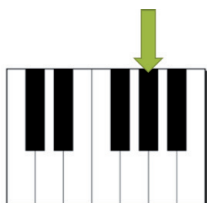
**3: What is a chord?**

- ▶  Two or more notes played at the same time
- ▶  The beat
- ▶  The lowest part you can hear
- ▶  It's the same as a melody
- ▶  A tune that repeats

**4: Which of these instruments CANNOT play chords?**

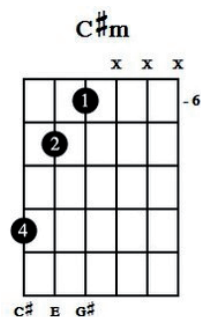
- ▶  Flute
- ▶  Ukulele
- ▶  Guitar
- ▶  Piano
- ▶  Xylophone

**5: What is this note?**



- ▶  A flat
- ▶  A minor
- ▶  B flat
- ▶  C sharp
- ▶  G major

**6: What is this chord?**



- ▶  C sharp minor
- ▶  C major
- ▶  C sharp major
- ▶  C minor
- ▶  C flat minor

**7: What is this?**

- ▶  A melody
- ▶  A beat
- ▶  A bassline
- ▶  Chords
- ▶  A rhythm

**8: Which part does a drum kit play?**

- ▶  The beat
- ▶  The melody
- ▶  The bassline
- ▶  The chords

**9: Does a bass guitar play chords?**

- ▶  No
- ▶  Yes
- ▶  Sometimes

**10: Which statement is correct?**

- ▶  The bassline is the lowest thing that you hear.
- ▶  The bassline is the highest thing that you hear.
- ▶  The bassline is in the middle – not high or low.

**Major and minor chords**

Working out major and minor triads by counting semitones. Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/iJHj1LQyl3k>).

**1: What are the notes of an E minor chord?**

- ▶  E G B
- ▶  E F sharp B
- ▶  E G sharp B
- ▶  E flat G B flat
- ▶  E G B flat

**2: What are the notes of an F major chord?**

- ▶  F A C
- ▶  F A flat C
- ▶  F A sharp C
- ▶  F A C sharp
- ▶  F sharp A C

**3: What are the notes of a D minor chord?**

- ▶  D F A
- ▶  D F sharp A
- ▶  A F A flat
- ▶  F A D
- ▶  D sharp F A

**4: What are the notes of a B flat major chord?**

- ▶  B flat D F
- ▶  B flat D flat F
- ▶  B flat D F sharp
- ▶  B D F
- ▶  B flat D sharp F

**5: What are the notes of a G minor chord?**

- ▶  G B flat D
- ▶  G B flat D flat
- ▶  G B D
- ▶  G sharp B D sharp
- ▶  G B D flat

**6: What are the notes of an E flat major chord?**

- ▶  E flat G B flat
- ▶  E flat G B
- ▶  E flat G flat B flat
- ▶  E G B
- ▶  E G B flat

**7: What are the notes of an A major chord?**

- ▶  A C sharp E
- ▶  A C E
- ▶  A C sharp E flat
- ▶  A sharp C sharp E
- ▶  A C E flat

**8: What notes are in a B minor chord?**

- ▶  B D F sharp
- ▶  B D sharp F sharp
- ▶  B flat D F sharp
- ▶  B D flat F
- ▶  B D F

**9: What are the notes of an F sharp major chord?**

- ▶  F sharp A sharp C sharp
- ▶  F sharp A C sharp
- ▶  F sharp A sharp C
- ▶  F A C sharp
- ▶  F A sharp C sharp

**10: What are the notes of an E flat minor chord?**

- ▶  E flat G flat B flat
- ▶  E flat G B flat
- ▶  E flat G flat B
- ▶  E G flat B flat
- ▶  E flat G B

**Chord inversions**

Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/ucRgP17lkxk>).

**1: What is an inverted chord?**

- ▶  When you flip the order of the notes in the chord.
- ▶  When you change one of the notes in the chord.
- ▶  When a chord is neither major nor minor.
- ▶  When you put random notes into a chord.
- ▶  When you play it in a different way.

**2: What is an interval?**

- ▶  The distance between two notes.
- ▶  When there are four, then three semitones in the chord.
- ▶  When there are three, then four semitones in the chord.
- ▶  When you play a first inversion chord.
- ▶  When you move the root of the chord.

**3: Which note is at the bottom in a root position chord?**

- ▶  The root
- ▶  The 3rd
- ▶  C
- ▶  The 5th
- ▶  It doesn't matter

**4: Which note is at the bottom in a first inversion chord?**

- ▶  The 3rd
- ▶  E
- ▶  The root
- ▶  The 5th
- ▶  It doesn't matter

**5: Which note is at the bottom in a second inversion chord?**

- ▶  The 5th
- ▶  The 3rd
- ▶  The root
- ▶  G
- ▶  C

**6: As long as it has C, E and G in it, it's still a C major chord. True or false?**

- ▶  True
- ▶  False
- ▶  It doesn't actually matter

**7: What kind of inversion is this chord?**



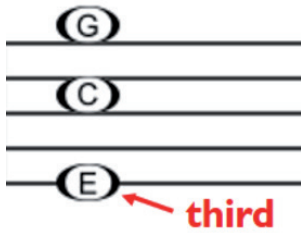
- ▶  First inversion
- ▶  Second inversion
- ▶  Root position
- ▶  Major inversion
- ▶  Minor inversion

**8: What kind of inversion is this chord?**



- ▶  Second inversion
- ▶  Root position
- ▶  First inversion
- ▶  Third inversion
- ▶  It's not a chord

9: What kind of inversion is this chord?



- ▶  First inversion
- ▶  Root position
- ▶  Second inversion
- ▶  Third inversion
- ▶  C major

10: This question is harder because you have to work out what the chord is, as well as what inversion it is in. What is this chord?



- ▶  D minor, root position
- ▶  D minor, first inversion
- ▶  D major, root position
- ▶  D major, first inversion
- ▶  D minor, second inversion

### Roman numerals, chords and keys

Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/soZJZzdS6Zs>).

1: IV in Roman numerals is which number?

- ▶  Four
- ▶  Six
- ▶  Two
- ▶  Five
- ▶  Seven

2: What is the bottom note of a chord called?

- ▶  The root
- ▶  The tonic
- ▶  It depends what chord it is
- ▶  The 3rd
- ▶  The 5th

3: Which statement is correct?

- ▶  Roman numerals = chords, Arabic numerals = notes
- ▶  Roman numerals = notes, Arabic numerals = chords
- ▶  Roman numerals = kings, Arabic numerals = queens
- ▶  Roman numerals = chords, Arabic numerals = keys
- ▶  Roman numerals = keys, Arabic numerals = chords

**4: How do we change the key of the music? Pick the most accurate description.**

- ▶  Change the note we are counting as 1.
- ▶  Put in some black notes.
- ▶  Change the number of semitones between the notes in the chords.
- ▶  Make it a bit higher or lower.
- ▶  Put the numbers in a different order.

**5: Which statement is true?**

- ▶  A major key has a mixture of major and minor chords in it.
- ▶  A major key only has major chords in it.
- ▶  A minor key only has minor chords in it.
- ▶  A major key has all major chords, except for one minor chord.
- ▶  A major key only has minor chords in it.

**6: Which chord is very rarely used?**

- ▶  VII
- ▶  V
- ▶  VI
- ▶  III
- ▶  IV

**7: Which chord is the same as chord I?**

- ▶  VIII
- ▶  V
- ▶  VI
- ▶  VII
- ▶  IX

**8: Which key has no black notes (sharps or flats) in it?**

- ▶  C major
- ▶  G major
- ▶  D major
- ▶  E flat major
- ▶  A major

**9: If you play up and down the notes in a key, one by one, what is this called?**

- ▶  A scale
- ▶  A major chord
- ▶  A minor chord
- ▶  An arpeggio
- ▶  A run

**10: What note is this?**



- ▶  A flat or G sharp
- ▶  A sharp or G flat
- ▶  F sharp or G flat
- ▶  B flat or A sharp
- ▶  D sharp or E flat

**Texture**

Texture is an element that has a lot of associated terminology, and one that students tend to find quite confusing. It's good to introduce students to it in detail at KS3 so they are ready for KS4, but also because it's so useful to know about for composing. Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/mtG8bZo4myQ>).

**1: What is texture?**

- ▶  Thick and thin: the layers in the music
- ▶  High and low: how it goes up and down
- ▶  Loud and soft: the volume
- ▶  Fast and slow: the speed
- ▶  The different sections: intro, verse etc.

**2: If one person is singing by themselves, with no backing whatsoever, what is this texture?**

- ▶  Monophonic
- ▶  Homophonic
- ▶  Polyphonic
- ▶  Heterophonic
- ▶  Saxophonic

**3: When Queen sing 'We Will Rock You', there are lots of people singing the same tune together, accompanied by drums, stamping and clapping. What is this texture?**

- ▶  Monophonic
- ▶  Xylophonic
- ▶  Polyphonic
- ▶  Homophonic
- ▶  Heterophonic

**4: When Pentatonix sing 'Run To You', they are a cappella and sing in harmony. What texture is this?**

- ▶  Homophonic
- ▶  Monophonic
- ▶  Microphonic
- ▶  Polyphonic
- ▶  Maxiphonic

**5: When John Legend performs 'All of Me', he sings and plays the piano. What texture is this?**

- ▶  Homophonic
- ▶  Telephonic
- ▶  Polyphonic
- ▶  Monophonic
- ▶  Antiphonic

**6: If 274 trombones are all playing 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' at the same time, what is the texture?**

- ▶  Monophonic
- ▶  Polyphonic
- ▶  Homophonic
- ▶  Heterophonic
- ▶  Multiphonic

**7: If three people are singing 'Frère Jacques' as a round, what is the texture?**

- ▶  Polyphonic
- ▶  Homophonic
- ▶  Heterophonic
- ▶  Multiphonic
- ▶  Monophonic



**8: If there is only one instrument playing, the texture must be monophonic.**

- ▶  False
- ▶  True

**9: If a singer is singing a melody, the backing singers are singing another melody, a trumpet is playing another different melody, and there are harmonies played on guitar and piano, what is the texture?**

- ▶  Polyphony
- ▶  Homophony
- ▶  Multiphony
- ▶  Heterophony
- ▶  Cacophony

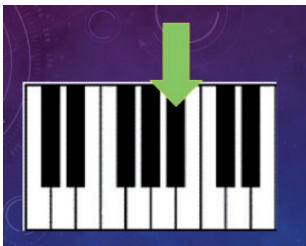
**10: In Indonesian gamelan music, a simple version of a melody is played on the low instruments, while a more complex versions of the same melody are played on the higher instruments. What texture is this?**

- ▶  Heterophony
- ▶  Polyphony
- ▶  Homophony
- ▶  Cacophony
- ▶  Multiphony

### Hamilton music theory quiz

This quiz goes with the practical work on the musical *Hamilton* set out in its own *Music Teacher* resource (July 2018). The project covers quite a bit of meaty theory to do with the way that chords work within a song. Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/txnDiqgUO8k>).

**1: What is this note?**



- ▶  A sharp
- ▶  B minor
- ▶  B sharp
- ▶  G sharp
- ▶  C sharp

**2: What does this mean?**

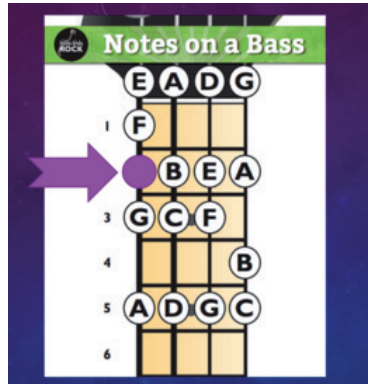


- ▶  An F sharp chord over an A sharp in the bass.
- ▶  You can play either F sharp or A sharp.
- ▶  An A sharp chord over an F sharp in the bass.
- ▶  You play F sharp then A sharp.
- ▶  You play a two-note chord that just has F sharp and A sharp in it.

**3: What is a 'stab' chord?**

- ▶  A short chord followed by a gap
- ▶  Where you play the notes of the chord one at a time
- ▶  Where you hold the notes of the chord on
- ▶  Where you play the chord over and over again
- ▶  Where the root of the chord is not the bass note

**4: What note is this?**



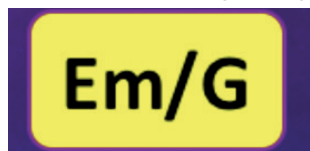
- ▶  F sharp
- ▶  F
- ▶  G
- ▶  G sharp
- ▶  E

**5: What note would you play in the bass here?**



- ▶  B
- ▶  B minor
- ▶  B sharp
- ▶  B flat
- ▶  D

**6: What note would you play in the bass here?**



- ▶  G
- ▶  E
- ▶  E minor
- ▶  E sharp
- ▶  G minor

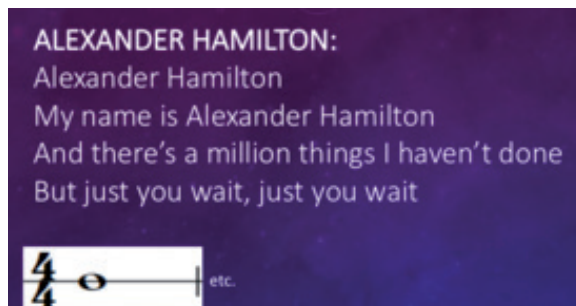
**7: What is a bassline?**

- ▶  One note at a time, the lowest-pitched sound in the music.
- ▶  It's the same as chords.
- ▶  It's the same as a melody.
- ▶  What the singer sings.
- ▶  What the drums play.

**8: What is a chord?**

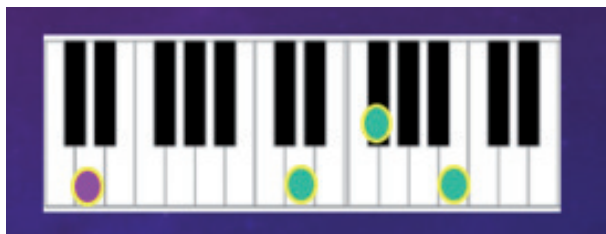
- ▶  Two or more notes played together
- ▶  The same as a tune
- ▶  The black notes
- ▶  The notes of a scale played one at a time
- ▶  Minor

**9: When Alexander Hamilton introduces himself, this is the rhythm for playing the chords. What is the correct way to describe this?**



- ▶  Sustained chords
- ▶  Stab chords
- ▶  Repeated chords
- ▶  Bass notes with clicks on 2 and 4
- ▶  Protagonist

**10: What would be the correct chord symbol for this chord?**



- ▶  Bm/D
- ▶  Bb/D
- ▶  B/D
- ▶  Dm
- ▶  D

**Blues background**

Most KS3 schemes of learning cover 12-bar blues at some point. This kind of activity is a good way to cover some of the social history behind the style. Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/dQftUHR0JXs>).

**1: When did the blues really start?**

- ▶  late 1800s
- ▶  early 20th century
- ▶  in the American Civil War
- ▶  1990s
- ▶  1820s

**2: What were the songs called that the sharecroppers sang in the fields?**

- ▶  Field hollers
- ▶  Spirituals
- ▶  Blues
- ▶  Hymns
- ▶  Folk tunes

**3: What did the sharecroppers sing about?**

- ▶  Personal woes, lost love, cruelty of the police and oppression by whitefolk.
- ▶  What they were planning on having for dinner.
- ▶  Moving to Chicago.
- ▶  How much they enjoyed their work.
- ▶  Overthrowing the ruling classes and starting a revolution.

**4: What was the structure of early blues?**

- ▶  AAB
- ▶  ABB
- ▶  ABC
- ▶  ABA
- ▶  BAB

**5: What is a jug band?**

- ▶  A band formed with home-made or recycled instruments
- ▶  A band where you play on different-sized jugs
- ▶  A band where you use cutlery to play the drums
- ▶  A band that plays in pubs
- ▶  A band that plays music in return for drinks

**6: Which US city did jug bands come from?**

- ▶  Memphis, Tennessee
- ▶  Atlanta, Georgia
- ▶  Chicago, Illinois
- ▶  New Orleans, Louisiana
- ▶  Washington, DC

**7: Which style of blues developed in Chicago in the 1930s and 1940s?**

- ▶  Urban blues
- ▶  Delta blues
- ▶  Electric blues
- ▶  Vocal blues
- ▶  Acoustic blues

**8: What is the horizontal guitar called, that is used in blues?**

- ▶  Slide guitar
- ▶  Banjo
- ▶  Acoustic guitar
- ▶  12-string guitar
- ▶  Balalaika

**9: Who was one of the famous female early blues singers?**

- ▶  Ma Rainey
- ▶  Ma Baker
- ▶  Ma Belle
- ▶  Ma Hubbard
- ▶  Ma Perkins

**10: Who was one of the most important early blues musicians, who has influenced songwriters ever since?**

- ▶  Robert Johnson
- ▶  Robert Plant
- ▶  Robert de Niro
- ▶  Robert Palmer
- ▶  Robert Downey Jnr

**Elements of music and pitch notation**

Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/1mtrRrpUqpY>).

**1: What two elements make a melody?**

- ▶  Pitch and rhythm
- ▶  Pitch and tempo
- ▶  Tempo and dynamics
- ▶  Dynamics and rhythm
- ▶  Pitch and texture

**2: What language are most words that describe dynamics?**

- ▶  Italian
- ▶  Greek
- ▶  Latin
- ▶  French
- ▶  German

**3: Which of these words describes getting louder?**

- ▶  Crescendo
- ▶  Diminuendo
- ▶  Allegro
- ▶  Ritardando
- ▶  Accelerando

**4: Which of these words describes a texture where there is just one line of music, with no accompaniment?**

- ▶  Monophonic
- ▶  Homophonic
- ▶  Polyphonic
- ▶  Round
- ▶  Imitative

**5: What are the lines called that the notes are written on?**

- ▶  Staff
- ▶  Crotchet
- ▶  Bass
- ▶  Treble
- ▶  Clef

**6: Intro, bridge, chorus, binary, rondo. Which element is associated with all these words?**

- ▶  Structure
- ▶  Texture
- ▶  Timbre
- ▶  Dynamics
- ▶  Tempo

**7: Which of these instruments CANNOT play chords?**

- ▶  Flute
- ▶  Violin
- ▶  Guitar
- ▶  Keyboard
- ▶  Ukulele

**8: What kind of notes are written on the treble staff?**

- ▶  High notes
- ▶  Low notes
- ▶  The notes on the lines
- ▶  Crotchets
- ▶  Chords

**9: What is the most common number of beats in the bar?**

- ▶  4
- ▶  5
- ▶  3
- ▶  2
- ▶  6

**10: What are dynamics?**

- ▶  Loud and soft
- ▶  Fast and slow
- ▶  Long and short
- ▶  Thick and thin
- ▶  High and low

**Voice types**

Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/nmAEmMctFWA>).

**1: What is the lowest male voice?**

- ▶  Bass
- ▶  Tenor
- ▶  Countertenor
- ▶  Falsetto
- ▶  Castrato

**2: What kind of singer was Pavarotti?**

- ▶  Tenor
- ▶  Bass
- ▶  Soprano
- ▶  Countertenor
- ▶  Castrato

**3: What is the highest female voice?**

- ▶  Soprano
- ▶  Alto
- ▶  Tenor
- ▶  Falsetto
- ▶  Mezzo-soprano

**4: What is the lowest female voice?**

- ▶  Alto
- ▶  Soprano
- ▶  Falsetto
- ▶  Treble
- ▶  Mezzo-soprano

**5: What kind of voice is between a bass and a tenor?**

- ▶  Baritone
- ▶  Mezzo-soprano
- ▶  Treble
- ▶  Countertenor
- ▶  Alto

**6: What is the correct name for an unchanged boy's voice?**

- ▶  Treble
- ▶  Countertenor
- ▶  Castrato
- ▶  Soprano
- ▶  Falsetto

**7: An adult male who chooses to sing in his falsetto register is called a...**

- ▶  countertenor
- ▶  soprano
- ▶  treble
- ▶  castrato
- ▶  mezzo-soprano

**8: Castrati singers are still around today. True or false?**

- ▶  False
- ▶  True

**9: Some singers can access an unusually high part of their voice. This is called the...**

- ▶  whistle register
- ▶  flute register
- ▶  piccolo register
- ▶  sumac register
- ▶  sopranino register

**10: A medium-range female voice is called a...**

- ▶  mezzo-soprano
- ▶  soprano
- ▶  alto
- ▶  treble
- ▶  mezzo-alto

### Opera and musical theatre

Here is the video (<https://youtu.be/MbXaX-UDHyg>).

**1: What is opera?**

- ▶  A play that has been set to music.
- ▶  A concert with people singing classical music.
- ▶  When people sing with lots of vibrato in their voice.
- ▶  It's when someone sings wearing a helmet with horns on it.
- ▶  It's exactly the same as a play.

**2: What is the difference between opera and musical theatre?**

- ▶  Opera singers don't use microphones. Musical theatre singers do use microphones.
- ▶  Opera singers use microphones. Musical theatre singers don't use microphones.
- ▶  Opera is in a foreign language, eg Italian.
- ▶  Opera is classical music, and musical theatre is modern.
- ▶  Opera is sung all the way through, and musicals have spoken dialogue.

**3: What is the correct name for the text or words for an opera (ie not the music)?**

- ▶  Libretto
- ▶  Score
- ▶  Script
- ▶  Scoretto
- ▶  Cornetto

**4: What is the correct name for the music of an opera or musical?**

- ▶  Score
- ▶  Libretto
- ▶  Scoretto
- ▶  Script
- ▶  Cornetto

**5: Do you have to wear evening dress to go to the opera?**

- ▶  No
- ▶  Yes

**6: Where in the theatre are the cheapest seats located?**

- ▶  At the top
- ▶  At the bottom
- ▶  At the back
- ▶  In the middle
- ▶  Behind a tall person

**7: What is the opening instrumental piece of an opera or musical called?**

- ▶  Overture
- ▶  Aria
- ▶  Chorus
- ▶  Soprano
- ▶  Libretto

**8: What is the lowest male voice called?**

- ▶  Bass
- ▶  Tenor
- ▶  Baritone
- ▶  Soprano
- ▶  Libretto

**9: What is the highest female voice called?**

- ▶  Soprano
- ▶  Contralto
- ▶  Mezzo-soprano
- ▶  Tenor
- ▶  Baritone

**10: What is a medium-pitched male voice called?**

- ▶  Baritone
- ▶  Bass
- ▶  Tenor
- ▶  Treble
- ▶  Mezzo-soprano

