**Music, Term 5**

**Unit 201ta Musical Knowledge**

**Task 2 – Recognise and Discuss Key Musical Elements (approx. 1000 words)**

This week, we are focusing on **tempo.**

**Tempo is the speed at which a piece of music is performed. This is usually measured in beats per minute (bpm) e.g. If a piece of music was 60 bpm, it would have one beat per second.**

**Tempo is indicated by an Italian term e.g. lento (slowly, 45-60 bpm), andante (walking pace, 76-108 bpm), allegro (fast, quickly, 102-110 bpm).**

**Tempo (approx. 200 words – 100 per piece)**

Choose **2** contrasting pieces of music/songs from different genres (they do not have to contain lyrics) and analyse the ‘tempo’. Try and choose pieces that have different tempos. Before you do any writing, you must listen to the music/song a number of times.

Consider the following (these are all examples – you do not necessarily need to write about each point):

* What tempo is your song/piece of music (Find out the beats per minute of your music)

e.g. The country song ‘Jolene’ has a tempo of 111 bpm. In Italian terms this would be classified as ‘moderato’ (medium speed).

* Can you name another piece of music/song from this genre with a similar tempo?

(If you have chosen a country song, can you find another country song with a similar BPM?)

e.g. Jolene has a similar tempo to the modern country song ‘A Thousand Hallelujahs’ by The Shires, which has a tempo of 109 bpm.

* What ‘feel’ does the tempo give the song and how would this change if the song was faster/slower? Does the tempo suit the overall message of the song?

e.g. The upbeat tempo of Jolene gives it a feeling of urgency. The writer, Dolly Parton, was trying to send a warning message to another woman, so this seems fitting with the pace of the song. Had the song been played at a slower, more laid-back tempo, it may have lost that feeling of importance.

* How does the tempo differ to that of a contrasting genre (style) of music? (e.g. blues or dance music) Can you find an example of a song from one of those genres?

You will need to do some research to find out the tempo of your song and to find some examples of similar songs. Remember, you are **not** comparing the pieces, you are simply discussing the tempo of each piece. You may use internet searches to assist with your research, however, all work MUST be written in your own words.

Enjoy!