**Name:**

**Do now activity**

Answer the following question:

**Recalling your knowledge from last term, can you name two production techniques?**

**1)**

**2)**

**Learning Objectives**

**To know** what tonality means

**To understand** the importance of tonality in a song

**To be able to** discuss tonality in relation to contrasting pieces of music

**Key words**

Musical Elements

Tonality

Major

Minor

Modulate (Change key)

**What is Tonality?**

Tonality is the organised system of tones (e.g. the notes of a major or minor scale).

Tonal music is music which uses the notes of the major or minor scale – therefore it is in a particular ‘key’ (e.g. C Major). Nearly all Western music is tonal.

**Starter Activity**

Before you do any writing, **listen to both of your songs** again.

Can you tell from just listening to your songs if they are in a major or minor key?

**Main activity**

You now need to discuss the tonality of your chosen songs. You need to write approximately 150 words (75 words each song).

* What key is your song in?

e.g. The rock song ‘Livin’ on a Prayer ‘ by Bon Jovi (released in 1986) begins in E minor, however, we do hear the use of the chord G major during the chorus.

* If your song changes key, what key does it modulate (change) to and can you note at what point in the song this happens?

e.g. There is a key change towards the end of the song, prior to the final chorus. This happens at approximately 3 minutes 23 seconds into the song when the music modulates to G minor (an increase of a minor third). This creates excitement and adds momentum to the music.

* Do you know the chord progression used in the song? Can you find a similar song from the same genre and compare the chord progression?

e.g. The chord progression used in the verse is I-VI-VII (1-6-7) followed by a pre-chorus progression of VI-VII-I (6-7-1). This is not a particularly common progression. A similar song from this genre is ‘Sweet Child O’ Mine’ by Guns and Roses (released in 1987) however, this song has a completely different chord progression of I, VII, IV, I (1, 7, 4, 1).

* What effect does the tonality have on the listener? What emotion does it evoke?

e.g. The minor key is reflective of the lyrics of the verse, which are rather downhearted. In contrast, the use of the G major chord in the chorus gives an uplifting feel to the song (this chord is played over the powerful ‘Whoah!’ lyric).

Song 1:

Song 2: