**Name:**

**Do now activity**

Answer the following question:

**What is tonality? (Please underline the correct answer)**

a) The sound of the instruments in a song

b) The organised system of tones (eg the notes of a major or minor scale)

c) The chords that are played in a piece of music

**Learning Objectives**

**To know** what lyrical content means

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

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

**Key words**

Musical Elements

Lyrical Content

Instrumentation

Tempo

Tonality

Production Technique

**What is lyrical content?**

Lyrical content is **the words that are used in a song and the meaning of those words.**

The lyrics of a song are an extension of the music and a way for the composer(s) to express themselves. It is sometimes argued that the lyrics of a song are the most important part, however this is a matter of individual opinion.

What is true, is the fact that lyrical interpretation is personal to the listener. Even if the writer intended to convey certain messages and ideas through their lyrics, each listener may take away something different than the next.

**Starter Activity**

Before you do any writing, you must **listen to both of your songs** (that you chose last week) a number of times.

If you can, print out the lyrics so that you can re-read and highlight any important parts. (If you can’t print them out, have the lyrics open on your computer/table/phone so that you can refer back to them).

**Main activity**

You now need to recognise and discuss the lyrics in your chosen songs. You need to write approximately 200 words (100 words each song).

* **Consider the following:**
* What is the song about? (Themes/issues) e.g. Love, Death, Break-up, Power
* When was the song written and are the lyrics reflective of the time period? Think about what was happening globally at the time the song was written – does this have any influence on the song lyrics?
* Is the song trying to convey a particular message? (political/emotional/religious) Are their underlying messages in the song?
* Are the lyrics about a real life situation/event that the artist experienced? A childhood memory, marriage breakdown?
* Are there any ‘stand-out’ phrases that summarise the meaning of the entire song? For example - Christina Aguilera’s ‘Beautiful’ “I am beautiful no matter what they say”

Song 1:

Song 2: