Music Explorations supporting document

| Elements | Contemporary theory |
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| Rhythm | * Notes and rests: whole note to 1/16 note (semibreve to semiquavers), dots and ties, tuplets * Simple meter, e.g. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 * Irregular meter, e.g. 5/4, 7/8 * Compound meter, e.g. 6/8, 9/8, 12/8 * Understanding of beat groupings for notes and rests * Syncopation and accents * Tempo and pulse |
| Pitch — melody/harmony | * Treble and bass clefs * Major and minor scales (harmonic, natural, melodic), blues scale, pentatonic scale and modes * Diatonic intervals * Diatonic triads in root position * Chords to the 7th, 9th, major, minor, dominant, half-diminished, and diminished * Altered 5 (dominant) chords, e.g. b9, #5 * Ostinato/riff * Sus2 and sus4 chords * Melody construction and shaping * Matching appropriate triads to a melody * Standard chord progressions, such as: 1-4-5 (and variants), 1-5-6-4 (and variants),  1-b7-4, 1-4-7-3-6-2-5-1 (fourth cycle and variants), 1-5-6-3-4-1-4-5 (Pachelbel Canon, rhythm changes) * Transposing instruments, e.g. Bb and Eb * Simple modulations or changes of key (typical of popular music only, e.g. up a semitone, or modulation to closely related keys) |
| Dynamics and expression | * Dynamic shaping and associated markings (symbols) * Expressive articulation and associated markings (symbols) * Tempo indications, e.g. quarter note =  120 BPM |
| Form and structure | * Binary * Ternary * Song form, e.g. intro, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, bridge * Call and response * 12 and 16 bar blues * Standard form and notation symbols, e.g. repeats, 1st and 2nd time endings, coda |
| Timbre | * Pitched and unpitched instruments (instrument families) * Tone colour of individual instruments and instrumental combinations (including voices and FX processing) |
| Texture | * Layering and blending of musical lines (melodic and rhythmic) * Varied combinations of solo and group layering |