

How to answer questions about Contour and Intervals

In your studies of music, you will have to describe the melody you hear on CDs or played live. It can be hard to know where to start. So here are some questions and sample answers about CONTOUR and INTERVALS in a MELODY.

When your teacher plays you a piece you haven't heard before, circle the answers below that best describe what you can hear.



QUESTIONS	CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER depending on the music you hear			
1. What is the length of the phrases?	8 bars	4 bars	2 bars	other
2. Does the melody move in steps or leaps?	mostly steps	mostly leaps	steps and leaps (describe)	
3. What is the contour of the melody?	smooth contour	jagged contour	some parts smooth/jagged (describe)	
4. Is the melody ascending or descending?	mostly ascending	mostly descending	ascending and descending (describe)	
5. Can you describe the intervals? (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th etc)	describe the main melody from the beginning			
6. Draw a picture of the melodic contour.				