Introduction (0:00-0:29)

The time signature is ................................................

The mood is .............................................................

The dynamic is ..........................................................

Fill in the missing words

1. (0:00-0:21) At the very beginning, we hear heavy chords on the ......................... and ......................... beats of the bar; this phrase is then repeated, with the added ......................... providing blows on the off-beats

2. (0:22-0:30) In the opening section, the choir enters almost immediately with a ......................... melody line sung in .........................

3. (2:15-3:20) The solo ......................... here begins a ......................... which is developed by the brass section.

Deeper thinking

A Requiem is a mass for the dead. There have been many Requiems written over the centuries, including those by Mozart, Fauré, Duruflé and Brahms. The ‘Dies Irae’, a Latin hymn used in Verdi’s Requiem setting, translates as ‘Day of Wrath’.

Listen to the first two minutes of Dies Irae and write a short paragraph explaining how Verdi’s music portrays the ‘Day of Wrath’. Think about the following keywords:

INSTRUMENTATION TEMPO DYNAMICS RHYTHM MELODY

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

...............................................................................................................................

.............................................................................................................................
Now listen to the section of music beginning at 1:55. Here the choir is singing the second stanza – “Quantus tremor est futurus” (“How great a trembling there shall be”). Write a short paragraph how Verdi’s music changes here, to fit the new text:

Odd one out!

Work in pairs or threes to choose two words from this list that sum up Verdi’s Dies Irae. You must have reasons for your answers.

Odd one out from the list above? Which word doesn’t fit?