Introduction (0:00-0:15)

The tempo is ..............................................................

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

The two families of instruments you can hear playing are:

..............................................................and ..............................................................

Fill in the missing words

1. (0:15-2:04) The opening section of the piece is played by a solo .............................................. with a series of ascending .............................................. and ..............................................................

2. (2:04-3:02) The orchestra enters quietly, accompanying the solo in the ....................................................... section. We continue to hear the folk-like .............................................. in the solo and in the orchestra

3. (5:15-end) The main theme returns, telling us that the piece is written in ..............................................form

DEVELOPMENT VIOLIN INTERVALS
TERNARY MOTIF ARPEGGIOS

Deeper thinking

Vaughan Williams’ The Lark Ascending was based on a poem of the same name by English poet George Meredith. The composer wrote his work while in service with the British army in World War One. Some say that the skylark could be seen soaring above the trenches.

Listen to the opening of Vaughan Williams’ The Lark Ascending and to the solo entry (0:15). Identify the instrument playing, and to which family of instruments it belongs:

Instrument: ..............................................................

Family: ..............................................................
Listen to how this solo theme develops before the entry of the orchestra (0:15 - 2:04), and write a short paragraph explaining how Vaughan Williams represents the skylark through the music. Think about the following keywords:

DYNAMICS  RHYTHM  MELODY
TEMPO  TECHNIQUE

Write your thoughts here:

Odd one out!

Work in pairs or threes to choose two words from this list that sum up the first three minutes of The Lark Ascending. You must have reasons for your answers.

PEACEFUL  ROMANTIC  IMPRESSIONIST  INTENSE
COUNTRYSIDE  STRIDENT  MEDITATION

Team up with another group. Make connections, contrast and compare, and select and reject the words. Prepare to present your views to the class.

• What evidence do you have?
• Why do you think this?
• Where in the music does it show this?
• What musical ideas does Vaughan Williams use to demonstrate this?

Your presentation should be concise and accurate. Choose one person to present the class.

Is there an odd word out from the list above? Which word doesn’t fit?