

Area of Study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Waltz, Opus 64, No. 1 – Student Sheet

Music by Frédéric Chopin

This piece employs a TERNARY FORM (A B A) structure:

A	52 bars	4 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8
B	32 bars	8 + 8 + 8 + 8
A1	56 bars	4 + 4 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8

Chopin was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist of the Romantic era who wrote primarily for the solo piano. He gained and has maintained renown worldwide as a leading musician of his era, whose poetic genius was based on a professional technique that was without equal in his generation.

Although Waltz, Opus 64, No. 1 has long been known as The Minute Waltz, its original nickname was meant to mean 'small' in the sense of a 'miniature' waltz. Chopin certainly did not intend for this waltz to be played in one minute and a typical performance of the work normally lasts between one and a half and two and a half minutes. However, concert pianists in the early 20th century attempted to play it at the fastest possible speed in order to demonstrate their showmanship.

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1) How would you describe the tempo at the beginning of this piece? (Underline one).

Allegro (Quick)

Andante (Walking Pace)

Adagio (Slow)

2) What is the time signature of this piece?

4/4 (four crotchet beats per bar)

12/8 (twelve quaver beats per bar)

3/4 (three crotchet beats per bar)

9/8 (nine quaver beats per bar)

3) Identify the tonality of this piece.

Minor

Major

4) Identify the compositional device used during the opening bars of the piece.

A scale (a rising or falling pattern of notes, usually moving in step)

An ostinato (a repeating musical idea)

An arpeggio (the notes of a chord played separately)

5) And as Section A progresses, which statement best describes the shape of the melody?

The melody is disjunct (angular) and contains mostly wide intervals

The melody is conjunct (stepwise) and contains mostly narrow intervals

6) What type of articulation is demonstrated during Section B?

Legato (smooth and connected)

Staccato (short and detached)

7) Identify the ornament heard at the beginning of Section A1.

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wjec
cbac

eduqas

A B A1

A B A1

A B A1

A B A1

The piece is mostly based on Tonic (I) and Dominant (V) chords
The piece uses a wide range of chords (I, ii, IV, V & vi) throughout

Total / 12