

LISTENING TO CLASSIC ROCK MUSIC

LISTENING GUIDE

For any song, answer as many questions as you can (not all are applicable for all songs). Writing down answers is not necessary--this is meant to augment the way you think about familiar music.

MOOD/STYLE

Is the song in a major or minor key? (or is it hard to tell, or does it switch between major and minor?)

Does it sound happy, sad or in some other mood?

Is the tempo slow, fast or varied?

Do the lyrics and music seem to work together? (i.e. does the music support the lyrics?)

What are the lyrics about? (love, story, image-based, situational, silly)

Would you describe the song (at a gut-level) as seeming to be simple or complex?

INSTRUMENTS

Apart from the likely drums, bass, vocals & guitar, what other instruments do you hear consistently and/or significantly?

Do you hear particular instruments coming in and out of the mix at different moments?

Do you hear any of the regular instruments standing out in an active or interesting way?

Do you hear any interesting sounds where you cannot identify the instrument(s)?

FORMAT/CONSTRUCTION

Can you make out the format of the song?

How many different sections do you hear?

Do the sections sound similar, or in contrast to one and other?

Do you hear sections repeating/returning?

If so, does it feature different instruments or rhythms?

Are there changes in volume, intensity or density (the number of instruments)?

INFLUENCES

Do you hear other instruments (folk, jazz, classical)?

Does anything in the song remind you of another song?

Does it sound similar to other songs by the same band in terms of composition or instruments?

Do you know of any specific history that informs the song?