

MUSIC

Discuss how interest is achieved in one or more works studied in the mandatory topic – music 1600-1900. Give specific details and musical references to support your answer, discussing at least TWO CONCEPTS.

Interest is created through the many different contrasts and unifying melodic material, in Violin Concerto in E Minor Movement 1 by Mendelssohn. The structure of this movement (sonata form) binds the piece together. Through the contrasts of these different sections, interest is created.

The exposition contains three different melodic ideas in it, in Theme 1, Bridge and Theme 2. It begins in E minor and contains elements that are later repeated but with more ornamentation the second time. Melody 1* is repeated throughout to remind listeners of the main theme and to create interest. The melody in the bridge, although it is a transitory section, is also heard later in fragments in the development section. Call and response occur between the solo violin and the rest of the orchestra. To smoothen out the change in dynamics and mood of the contrasting Theme 1 and 2, this section gradually diminuendos, leading into the tranquillo section of Theme 2. To create interest in the bridge, as it is usually used as a transition, Mendelssohn gives the solo violin virtuosic passages of arpeggiated chords and double stopping in bar 100. Theme 2 is a lot more delicate and is played *leggiero* (lightly) by all the instruments. Once again, to lead into the development section, Mendelssohn incorporates *crescendo* and by the end of the exposition, it is played *tutti*.

The development in bar 226 has melodic material from the bridge and is played in a call and response style, between the woodwinds and strings, generating interest. Towards the end of this section, a *cadenza* is played by the solo violin in bar 299. It is played *rubato*, has unexpected pauses and contains very virtuosic material used to display the performer's talent. This is the most interesting part of a concerto. They play ascending and descending arpeggiated chords and ascending scalar runs with short note-values.

The recapitulation is very similar to the exposition. However, the bridge is played an octave higher and is more ornamented, creating interest. The note-values constantly change and there is interplay between the orchestra and the solo violin. The variation in tone colour creates interest amongst listeners.

The coda once again uses material from the bridge but there are marked tempo changes to create tension, thus generating interest. Bar 473 is *piu presto*, and gradually gets faster from that point, to the very end of the movement.

* Insert musical quote of the first main theme