

LEARN SHEET: Variations (9.2 Part 1)

Vocabulary you need to know:

Rhythm & Tempo terms	
Syncopation	An 'off-beat' or jazzy rhythm
Triplet	3 notes played in the time of 2
Irregular	An 'off-beat'/unpredictable rhythm
Regular	A predictable, straightforward rhythm
Scotch Snap	A short note followed by a longer one
Rubato	Expressive, with some freedom
Melody & Texture terms	
Riff	A repeating pattern or phrase
Pedal/Drone	A long held note
Monophonic	A single melodic line
Polyphonic	Many melodies lines together
Canonic	Like a 'round' – staggered entries
Conjunct	Stepwise movement
Disjunct	Movement using leaps and jumps
Diatonic	Using the notes of the scale
Chromatic	Using extra sharps/flats
Broken chord	Rocking between notes of the chord
Melodic fill	A short melodic phrase to fill a gap
Melody with accompaniment	A clear melody with simple parts accompanying beneath
Harmony	
Dissonant	Harmonies which clash
Consonant	Harmonies which sound pleasant
Perfect cadence	Chords V-I; sounds complete
Imperfect cadence	Chords x-V; sounds incomplete
Transpose	Move a melody/piece to a new key
Structure	
Theme + Variation	A series of 'versions' of an original
Target Grade 6- or higher?	
Backbeat/Skank	Emphasising the 'off-beat'/beat 2&4
Shuffle/swing	Lively rhythm used in Jazz & Blues
Boogie-Woogie	Style characterised by lively bass line
Counter melody	A 2 nd melody which complements
Relative Minor	The minor key with the same key signature as the relative major
Added note chord	A chord with the 7 th or 9 th added for extra interest

Melody and Pitch to create a variation

PITCH – Play the melody at a higher or lower octave (Keep the notes the same)

PITCH DISPLACEMENT – Change the pitch of some of the notes in the melody to a higher or lower version

PASSING/AUXILIARY NOTES – Decorate the melody by adding extra notes in the gaps to add interest

Theme & Variation

Theme – The original musical idea



Variations – How the original idea is changed



Target 6- or higher

Relative Minor – The minor key with the same key signature as the relative major

Major Key		Relative minor
C Major	←	A Minor
D Major	←	B Minor
E Major	←	C# Minor
F Major	←	D Minor
G Major	←	E Minor
A Major	←	F# Minor
B Major	←	G# Minor

To work out the relative minor of a major key count down in pitch (left direction on the keyboard) **3** semitones. To work out the relative major of a minor key, count up in pitch **3** semitones

Rhythm & Tempo to create a variation

TEMPO – Make the tempo faster or slower to create a variety

RHYTHM – Change the rhythm of the original melody to make it more jazzy or interesting.

STYLE – Use a different drum style to give the variation a contrasting rhythmic feel