

Beethoven video questions

1. What was the great tragedy in Beethoven's life?
 - a. gradually going deaf during his early adulthood
 - b. losing his wife in the Napoleonic wars
 - c. that he failed to get a job with the Margrave of Brandenburg
2. How did he respond?
 - a. eventually gave up composing music and became a painter
 - b. wrote the music he could hear in his head, though not with his ears
 - c. invented musical notation in Braille
3. What was Beethoven's reputation in Vienna?
 - a. the most polite guest at parties, but only a mediocre composer
 - b. the most brilliant composer in Europe, but very ill-tempered
 - c. a total recluse, rarely seen in public
4. What did Beethoven do to impress Mozart?
 - a. wear an even more extraordinary wig than the one Mozart wore
 - b. by writing more symphonies than Mozart did
 - c. perform a keyboard improvisation on a theme supplied by Mozart
5. How did Beethoven change the way a symphony is written?
 - a. Rather than a series of unrelated movements, he made each movement a part of a whole dramatic narrative
 - b. He introduced minor keys for the first time in a symphony
 - c. He added the percussion section to the orchestra
6. What did Beethoven consider a great threat to freedom and independence?
 - a. Capitalism
 - b. Communism/Socialism
 - c. Napoleon Bonaparte
7. What was Beethoven's "message" in the Ninth Symphony?
 - a. that more people should listen to classical music
 - b. that all men are brothers
 - c. that the world would end soon

Vocabulary:

Symphony: A composition for orchestra usually in three to four movements

Sonata Form: A musical structure in which a musical theme is stated in an opening section called (1) the Exposition, modified in various ways in a section called (2) the Development, and brought back in its (more or less) original form in a section called (3) the Recapitulation (or Recap)

Allegro con brio: fast and lively

Motif (aka motive): A very short, easily recognized series of notes (often just four notes, as with Beethoven's Fifth Symphony) that are used to build a musical *theme*. (In jazz this would be called a riff.)