







Year 7 — Samba Rhythms — Knowledge Organiser

1. Rhythmic notation

Note Symbol	Note Name	Note Value
	Minim	2 beats
	Semibreve	4 beats
	Crotchet	1 beat
	4 semiquavers	4 quarter beats (1 whole beat)
	Pair of quavers	2 half beats (one whole beat)
	Quaver	Half a beat



3. Samba instruments



Ganza (shaker)



Agogo bells



Surdo



Tamborim

2. Key Words — Samba

Bateria	A Portuguese and Spanish word meaning drum kit. It is the term used to refer to the set of drums used in Samba music.
Apito	A whistle. It is used by the leader to signal transitions. These transitions could include changes in timbre or rhythmic pattern.
Call and response	One person plays (or sings) a musical phrase which is then responded to by a group. They may copy the call or perform a different phrase, like a musical conversation.
Polyrhythm	The use of several rhythms performed simultaneously, often overlapping to create a thick, polyrhythmic texture.
Syncopation	A way of changing a rhythm by making some notes sound a bit early, often so that they cross over the main beat of the music, emphasising the weak or off beats.
Cyclic rhythm	A rhythm which is repeated over and over again.
Ostinato	A rhythm that is played over and over again. A repeated pattern.
Groove	The main ostinato that is heard most of the way through a piece of samba music.
Rest	A silent beat
Pulse	A regular beat that is felt throughout much music
Rhythm	A series of notes of different lengths that create a pattern. Usually fits with a regular beat or pulse

Try listening to some samba music whilst doing your homework!