

Dynamite | BTS



Album: *Be*
Released: 2020
Label: Big Hit/Columbia/Sony Music

Genre: Dance-Pop/K-Pop
Written by: Jessica Agombar and David Stewart
Produced by: David Stewart

Background Info



'Dynamite' is a song performed by South Korean boy band BTS. It was the group's first song performed entirely in English and was met with critical acclaim, leading to BTS becoming the first South Korean act to top the US Billboard Chart. The song features on the group's ninth studio album *Be*. In its first week the single release of 'Dynamite' sold 265,000 digital copies, and had over 7 million streams on its first day on Spotify.

BTS are part of a genre of Korean pop music known as k-pop, and have developed a large fanbase both in South Korea and internationally. The group originally formed in 2013, signing with South Korean label Big Hit Entertainment. With more than 20 million records sold, BTS are now the best-selling Korean act of all time.

Performance Notes



This upbeat K-pop tune is a fun challenge for this grade with some complex rhythms and larger intervallic leaps. As the original song has four different voice types singing, you can use this to inspire your choice of tone colour; the aim is to sound confident and consistent in both your chest voice and falsetto.

There is a range of expressive techniques to implement with the accented *staccato* feel of the melody and you will need to focus on the articulation of the words in order for these to sound rhythmically secure against the backing track at all times.

The spoken style section (from bar 35) and on the end notes of some phrases is an important feature to include, and there is also scope for building up the 'Dy-na-na-ay' phrases dynamically for more expressive variation (from bar 37).

'Key Features to Implement at this Grade' are shown in the **Repertoire Overview** on page 6.

Dynamite

Words and Music by Jessica Agombar and David Stewart

BTS

♩ = 114 K-Pop

Vocals

Piano

C#m⁷ F#m⁷ B⁷sus⁴ E

'Cause I, I, I'm in the starts to-night. So watch me

The first system of music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 114 K-Pop. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G#4, A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

C#m⁷ F#m⁷ B⁷sus⁴ E

bring the fire, set the night a - light.

3

The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has quarter notes G#4, A4, B4, and C5, followed by a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

C#m⁷ F#m⁷ B⁷sus⁴

Shoes on, I get up in the morn' cup - pa milk let's rock - 'n' - roll,

5

The third system continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has quarter notes G#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G#5, A5, B5, and C6. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

E

King Kong, kick the drum - roll - in' on like a Roll - in' Stone.

7

The fourth system continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has quarter notes G#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G#5, A5, B5, and C6. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

Technical Exercises

Group A: Scales

The major pentatonic scale should be prepared as shown below. The example below is shown from the starting note of A3, however, you may perform it *from a starting note of your choice*. Please note: the examiner can play starting notes in the range A3–G#4, but you may sing *in any octave*.

This test is performed to a compulsory metronome click. The examiner will ask you which starting note you have chosen. You will hear the starting note followed by a one-bar (four click) count-in. You may perform this test using any vocal sound except humming or whistling. The tempo is ♩=80.



Group B: Arpeggios

In this group, *both* of the arpeggio exercises need to be prepared as shown below. You will be asked to perform *one* of them in the exam, as chosen by the examiner.

The examples are shown on the starting note of A3, but you may perform them *from a starting note of your choice*. Please note: the examiner can play starting notes in the range A3–G#4, but you may sing *in any octave*.

This test is performed to a compulsory metronome click. The examiner will ask you which starting note you have chosen. You will hear the starting note followed by a one-bar (four click) count-in. You may perform this test using any vocal sound except humming or whistling. The tempo is ♩=80.

A major arpeggio



A major arpeggio (ascending) and E⁷ arpeggio (descending)



Improvisation & Interpretation

The examiner will give you an eight-bar chord sequence in the key of either D major or B^b major. At this grade, there is also an element of sight reading at the beginning of the test consisting of a two-bar section with lyrics. You will be given 30 seconds to practise, after which the examiner will play the backing track twice. The first time is for you to rehearse and the second time is for you to perform the final version for the exam. The backing track will begin with a root note and a four-beat count-in on both playthroughs. The backing track is continuous, so once the first playthrough has finished, the root note and count-in of the second playthrough will start immediately. The tempo is ♩=90–100.

During the practice time, you will be given the choice of a metronome click throughout or a count-in of four beats at the beginning. Whichever option you choose, the practice time will start with the examiner playing the root note.

Note: You may perform the improvised bars in this test using any vocal sound except humming or whistling.

♩=95 Jazz

He does-n't want to get out of bed.

Improvise melody

F#m7 Gmaj7 A7 Dmaj7

Please note: the test shown is an example. The examiner will give you a different version in the exam.