

# Listening Exam Revision

Cadences &  
Musical Devices

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# We are learning to:

- Define the following cadences: perfect, interrupted, imperfect and plagal.
- Define and recognise the musical devices repetition, imitation and sequence.
- Recognise the above cadences and musical devices in musical extracts.

# Cadences

“A *cadence* is formed by two chords at the end of a passage of music”

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# Perfect Cadences

- *Perfect cadences* sound like the music has come to an end.
- The chords are in root position; that is, the roots of both chords are in the bass, and the root of the final chord is in the highest voice. A Perfect Cadence is a progression from V to I in major keys, and V to i in minor keys. This is generally the strongest type of cadence.

# Interrupted Cadences

- *Interrupted cadences* are 'surprise' cadences. You think you are going to hear a perfect cadence, but you get a minor chord instead.
- V to any chord except I (typically vi or VI). This is considered a weak cadence because of the "hanging" (suspended) feel it invokes.

# Imperfect Cadences

- *Imperfect cadences* sound unfinished. They sound like they want to carry on to complete the music properly (chords I – V).

# Plagal Cadences

- *Plagal cadences* sound finished. The two chords have one note in common. Here it is the C. Plagal cadences are often used at the end of hymns and sung to A-men (chords IV – I).