TEXTURE

Texture refers to the number of individual musical lines (melodies) and the relationship these lines have to one another.

NOTE: Be careful not to confuse the number of musical lines with the number of performers producing the musical lines.
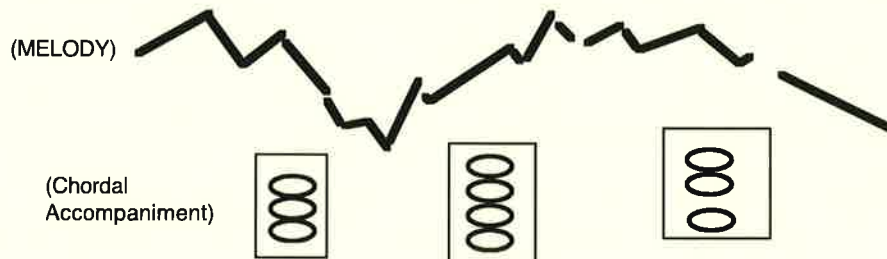
Monophonic (single-note) texture:

Music with only **one note sounding at a time** (having no harmony or accompaniment).

Homophonic texture:

Music with **two or more notes sounding at a the same time**, but generally featuring a **prominent melody** in the upper part, **supported by a less intricate harmonic accompaniment** underneath (often based on homogenous chords—BLOCKS of sound).

(MELODY)

(Chordal Accompaniment)

Polyphonic texture:

Music with two or more **independent melodies** sounding at the same time. The most intricate types of polyphonic texture— **canon** and **fugue**—may introduce three, four, five or more independent melodies simultaneously! **This manner of writing is called COUNTERPOINT.**

MELODY 1

MELODY 2

MELODY 3