

Note that the ideas from earlier have been rewritten in double note values to make it easier to read. The chords in the lead guitar have been rewritten as power chords, with the third omitted, creating a rawer sound at these points. The bass line both adds rhythmic impetus and offers melodic interest, providing movement when the melody is still. The drum part mostly follows the same four-bar pattern, but changes after the fourth phrase of the melody. Notice how the texture changes in the fifth phrase of the melody, with held chords in the guitar instead of repeated ones. The slight change of mood here could be reinforced by introducing other instruments, such as a string section doubling the chords at a higher octave, or a lead guitar adding a countermelody.

Now complete the full texture for your verse, aiming to keep it interesting by introducing subtle changes in the texture where necessary.

Completing your song

Step 11: composing the other sections

You should now have been through the process of composing material for a verse, from a simple chord progression through to a final texture. You can compose all the other sections in your piece in the same way, following the verse-chorus structure.

Project 2 in the *GCSE Music Composition Workbook* covers the parts of the verse-chorus form in detail, so only a summary of the typical features of each section is given.

Introduction	Features that will appear later in the song often appear here. The introduction often has a thinner texture than the main part of the song, for instance often consisting of just the bass line, chord progression or a melodic hook.
Verse 1	This is the material you have written so far. In the lyrics, the verse is the part where the words are different each time.
Bridge	This is a short passage which links the verse to the chorus. You might need to write a bridge if you find that the verse ends in the wrong key, or if the chorus needs more preparation to give it an impact. A bridge could be based on a chord progression which works its way back to the home key, or it might be a way of drawing out the final chord of the verse. It usually has a slightly different texture to the verse.
Chorus	This should contrast with the verse. In the lyrics, the chorus is the section of text which is repeated and often contains the title of the song. Normally, the chorus has a simpler melody that could be sung along to, but also a fuller texture. Often the harmony is thicker, with backing vocals and strings perhaps doubling the melody in 3rds or 6ths. Textures tend in general to be more sustained.
Verse 2	Change something to make verse 2 different from verse 1. For example, change the timbre of one of the instruments, or, if you are using audio sequencing software, use different effects.
(Bridge)	
Chorus 2	This is a repeat of chorus 1. As with the verses, it can be changed slightly.
Middle eight	The vocals often drop out here, being replaced by a solo instrument playing a melodic improvisation. New material is often introduced, such as a different chord progression, though it is still consistent with the style and material in the rest of the song.
Chorus 3	This can be a straight repeat of the opening choruses, but it might be more interesting to vary some of the material here. This could involve adding another part on top of the existing texture, such as a solo for trumpet, vocals or lead guitar.
Chorus 4	Further repeat of the chorus. This may contain further improvisation or different added parts, and may fade out or come to rest on a cadence
Outro	This section brings the song to an end, perhaps bringing the song to a cadence. A lot of songs just fade out with the chorus repeating. It might mirror the way the song opened by returning to the texture, tempo or material of the introduction.