Intonation Balance and Blend

Use pitch information and musical roles to make ensemble decisions.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the guide, then answer in words. No tuner, recording, or instrument is needed.

QUICK REFERENCE

Intonation: how closely a pitch matches its target. Flat = low; sharp = high.
Balance: how strongly parts are heard. The musical role guides the balance.
Blend: how well tone quality, articulation, and style fit together.
A tuner compares pitch. Check the note, octave, and reference setting; listen too.

A Read the tuner information

Each reading compares the intended note with the correct target.

Reading	Flat, sharp, or matched?	Raise, lower, or keep?
1. 20 cents below target		
2. 10 cents above target		
3. At the target		
4. 5 cents below target		

B Choose the main focus

Write intonation, balance, or blend. You may use a term more than once.

5. One player sustains a pitch above the section's target. _____

6. The accompaniment covers the melody. _____

7. One player uses short attacks while the section plays connected. _____

8. A section wants a more unified tone quality. _____

C Explain a musical decision

9. A tuner is centered, but you do not match a sustained reference note.
Name two things to check before changing how you play.

_____

_____

10. The accompaniment covers a comfortable melody. What should change,
and what should the ensemble listen for afterward?

_____

_____

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ANSWER KEY Sample wording is acceptable where noted.

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A Read the tuner information

Each reading compares the intended note with the correct target.

Reading	Flat, sharp, or matched?	Raise, lower, or keep?
1. 20 cents below target	**flat**	**raise**
2. 10 cents above target	**sharp**	**lower**
3. At the target	**matched**	**keep**
4. 5 cents below target	**flat**	**raise**

B Choose the main focus

Write intonation, balance, or blend. You may use a term more than once.

5. One player sustains a pitch above the section's target. **intonation**

6. The accompaniment covers the melody. **balance**

7. One player uses short attacks while the section plays connected. **blend**

8. A section wants a more unified tone quality. **blend**

C Explain a musical decision

9. A tuner is centered, but you do not match a sustained reference note.
Name two things to check before changing how you play.

Check the intended note and octave; check the tuner reference setting.
Then listen and compare with the sustained reference.

10. The accompaniment covers a comfortable melody. What should change,
and what should the ensemble listen for afterward?

Reduce the accompaniment while keeping a steady, supported tone.
Listen for a clearly heard melody with accompaniment still present.