

# Motivation for Learning Music Questionnaire

## Student's Questionnaire

Research Group in Piano Pedagogy  
University of Ottawa



© 2005 / 2021 Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory

The Motivation for Learning Music Scale is copyrighted by Professor Gilles Comeau and his co-authors. Permission to use the scale is granted for free to all researchers if the scale is used for non-commercial purposes. Appropriate credit should be given to the authors of the scale (see the final page for citation).

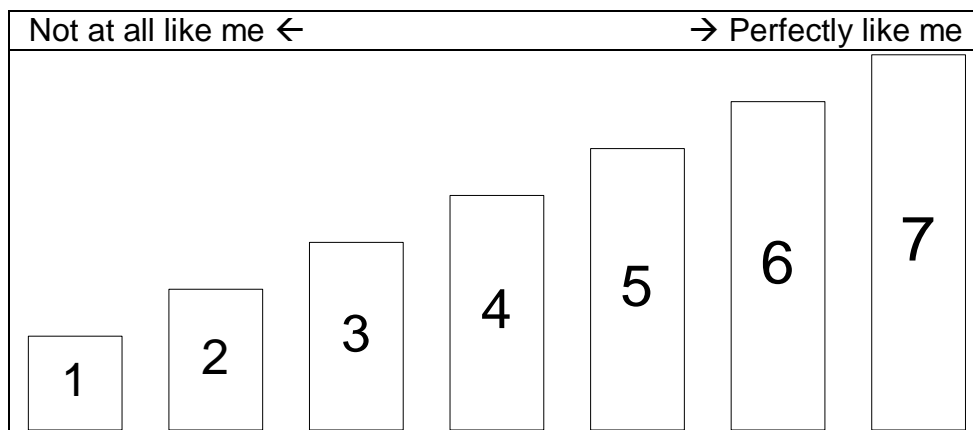
## Instructions

You have been learning to play the instrument for some time now. You are probably doing this for various reasons and some of these reasons may be more important than others. I am particularly interested in your reasons for learning to play the instrument.

Here is what we are going to do today. I will present you with different reasons why people learn to play the instrument. What I would like you to do is tell me how much each of these reasons describes what you think or how you feel. When you think about a reason for learning to play the instrument, ask yourself if this reason describes you “perfectly”, “not at all” or “somewhere in between these two extremes”.

To indicate how much the statements mentioned describes you, all you need to do is choose one of the towers shown below. Circle the number to identify the tower you choose.

- If the reason mentioned describes you perfectly, then pick the highest tower.
- If the reason does not describe you at all, then pick the smallest tower.
- If the reason describes do to some degree in between these two extremes, then pick a tower somewhere in between.



Do you understand what we are going to do? OK. Let's do a couple of examples just to practice. These examples have nothing to do with music but they will help you understand what we are going to do. Are you ready to begin?

## Just for practice

I do my classwork \_\_\_\_\_.

|   |  | Not at all like me ←→ Perfectly like me |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | so that the teacher won't yell at me.      |   |
| 2 | because I want to learn new things.        |   |
| 3 | because I will feel guilty if I don't.     |   |
| 4 | because it's fun.                          |   |
| 5 | because my parents pay me to go to school. |   |

Very good! Now I am going to give you various reasons why people may learn to play the instrument and I would like you to do exactly the same thing you just did. Tell me how much these reasons describe your own reasons to learn to play the instrument.

Are you ready to continue?

## Now the real thing

I learn to play the instrument \_\_\_\_\_.

|   |  | Not at all like me ←→ Perfectly like me |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | because I enjoy learning new things about music.               |   |
| 2 | but it is a waste of my time.                                  |   |
| 3 | because my parents would be disappointed if I stopped playing. |   |
| 4 | because I want to be a musician when I grow up.                |   |
| 5 | but I don't see the point in learning to play the instrument.  |   |
| 6 | because I see myself as a musician.                            |   |

**I learn to play the instrument \_\_\_\_\_.**

|    |  | Not at all like me ←→ Perfectly like me |
|----|--|---|
| 7  | but I don't care if I play the instrument or not.                              |   |
| 8  | because it is part of who I am.  |   |
| 9  | because my teacher would be disappointed if I stopped playing.                 |   |
| 10 | because it makes me feel good.   |   |
| 11 | because I would feel bad about myself if I didn't learn to play my instrument. |   |
| 12 | because my parents would be upset if I quit playing my instrument.             |   |
| 13 | because this is what a musician does.  |   |

**I learn to play the instrument \_\_\_\_\_.**

|    |   | Not at all like me ←→ Perfectly like me |
|----|---|---|
| 14 | because I made the decision to become a good instrument player. |   |
| 15 | because I enjoy learning new pieces.                            |   |
| 16 | because playing the instrument is a lot of fun.                 |   |
| 17 | because I will get in trouble if I don't.                       |   |
| 18 | because I would feel guilty if I don't.                         |   |
| 19 | because it is really interesting.                               |   |
| 20 | but I don't want to do it.                                      |   |

**I learn to play the instrument \_\_\_\_\_.**

|    |  | Not at all like me ←→ Perfectly like me |
|----|--|---|
| 21 | but I am not interested in it.                             |   |
| 22 | because my teacher would be upset with me if I stopped.    |   |
| 23 | because I would feel anxious if I didn't.                  |   |
| 24 | because I would feel embarrassed if I stopped.             |   |
| 25 | because I would be ashamed of myself if I stopped playing. |   |

**You are done. Good work!**

**Thank you for taking this time to help us with our research**

**Scoring scheme:**

amotivation = items 2, 5, 7, 20, 21;  
external regulation = items 3, 9, 12, 17, 22;  
introjection = items 11, 18, 23, 24, 25;  
identification and integration = items 4, 6, 8, 13, 14;  
intrinsic motivation = items 1, 10, 15, 16, 19)

**Citation:**

Comeau, G., Huta, V., Lu, YY., & Swirp, M. (2019). The Motivation for Learning Music (MLM) questionnaire: Assessing children's and adolescents' autonomous motivation for learning a musical instrument. *Motivation and Emotion*, 43(5), 705-718.