

Table 2.1: Analysis chart for critical listening.

DESCRIPTOR	MEANING	POSSIBLE ANSWERS
Frequency Response: frequency vs. amplitude	Overall, is it “even” or “flat”? Bright, Dark, Muddy, Thin? Good HF and LF extension? Possibly draw a graph...	
Image/Perspective	Describe the overall image. Wide? Narrow? Even from left to right, or is there a hole in the middle? Is the depth exaggerated?	
Stage Placement	Quickly identify the stage layout – how are the string sections sitting? Where is brass, harp, perc, etc.? Possibly draw a sketch...	
Balance	Describe the overall orchestral balance. Strings vs. Brass, or Front vs. Back? Solo vs. Orchestra?	
Dynamic Range/ Dynamic Contrast	How great is the difference between loud and soft sections of the piece? How great is the difference between attacks and sustained notes in the music?	
Naturalness	Does the recording represent a realistic event? Does the quality and amount of reverberation sound natural?	
Distortion and noises	Are there any distracting artefacts such as clipping, rumble, hum or buzz from lights etc.?	