**Harmony:**

No Harmoney as there are not formal combinations of musical notes

**Key Features:**

**Fast Tempo – Usually between 160-180 bpm**

**Rhythmic Ostinatos**

**Percussion instrument focus**

**Complex rhythms and layers (Combinations) of sounds**

**Performed live in the streets**

**Often loud dynamics due to the nature of the instruments.**

**Underlying pulse keeping the Samba band in time**

**A leader signals to keep instruments in time and to move between sections.**

**Texture:**

Monophonic and Polyphonic are the most common textures used in Samba.

Monophonic: 1 sound or musical part that can be heard.

Polyphonic: 2 or more sounds or musical parts that can be heard.

**Tonality:**

No set key signature due to untuned percission being used.

**Melody:**

Melody could link to the only changes in pitch from the Agogo but very limited. High and low picthed Agogo Bells can creat contrast but not strictly a Melody.

**Dynamics:**

Often loud as performed using naturally loud percussion instruments. Variety created by changing dynamics between sections and musical parts.

**Structure:**

Call and Response

Intro, Section A, Break, Section B, Break, Section C, Break, Section A, Outro

Often no set length of time for each section – leader tells when to start and stop a section.

**Rhythm:**

Syncopated Rhythms – The stressing or playing of a beat not considered to the pulse (1+2+3+4+)

Off the Beat Rhythms – Similar to syncopation, beats that fall on the ‘e’ or ‘a’ of the semi quaver count: 1**e**+**a**2**e**+**a**3**e**+**a**4**e**+**a**

A pulse often performs consistently for the majority of the piece forming the foundations of the rhythm.

**Instrumentation/Timbre:**

Surdo, Tamborim, Reco Reco, Shaker, Agogo Bells. Acoustic instruments performing their natural sound.

**Tempo:**

Usually between 110 and 130 beats per minute (BPM). Faster tempos usually make the listener want to dance.

**Production:**

Performed live using acoustic instruments. Usually recorded live in a music studio but often heard outside in the streets, carnival style.