

Questions 1-5 are based on the text you'll read. Read the text, then read the questions or tasks and find the best suitable answer to it.

AMERICAN JAZZ

American jazz is a *conglomeration* of sounds borrowed from such varied sources as American and African folk music, European classical music, and Christian gospel songs. One of the recognizable characteristics of jazz is its improvisation: certain parts of the music are written out and played the same way by various performers, and other improvised parts are created spontaneously during a performance and vary widely from performer to performer.

The earliest form of jazz was ragtime, lively songs or *rags* performed on the piano, and the best-known of the ragtime performers and composers was Scott Joplin. Born in 1868 to former slaves, Scott Joplin earned his living from a very early age playing the piano in bars around the Mississippi. One of his regular jobs was in Maple Leaf Club in Sedalia, Missouri. It was there that he began writing the more than 500 compositions that he was to produce, the most famous of which was "The Maple Leaf Rag."

1. The word "*conglomeration*" (line 1) could best be replaced by _____.
 1. selection
 2. disharmony
 3. collection
 4. mixture
2. When a musician improvises, he _____.
 1. makes up some parts of music as he plays
 2. plays only the written parts of the music
 3. performs only a varied parts of the music
 4. performs the same way as other musicians.
3. According to the passage, ragtime was _____.
 1. songs performed only at the Maple Leaf Club
 2. songs performed only in bars around the Mississippi
 3. the first type of jazz
 4. lively songs of slaves
4. Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
 1. Scott Joplin was a slave when he was born.
 2. Scott Joplin's parents were slaves when Scott was born.
 3. Scott Joplin's parents had been slaves before Scott was born..
 4. Scott Joplin's parents stopped being slaves in 1868.
5. The name of Scott Joplin's most famous composition probably came from _____.
 1. a Christian gospel song
 2. the name of the place where he was born
 3. the maple tree near his school
 4. the name of a saloon where he performed.

Choose the topics to the texts 6 – 10. There are two extra topics!

This museum tells you about the history of

6.

Step inside this magical 1850s "Cinema" for an exciting tour of Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. As the lights go down a brilliant moving image of the capital appears before you, while the guide tells the story of Edinburgh's historic past.
7.

The National Waterways Museum of Gloucester brings to life the time when Britain's waterways were dug between towns. Transport by these ways was cheaper than transport by land. Many exhibits give visitors the chance to relive the Age which helped to revolutionize Britain's water system.
8.

Black Country Museum is an open - air museum. Your visit there is always exciting and enjoyable. Guides in national costumes and working demonstrators tell visitors a story of the time when different machines were invented in Britain and factories began to develop very quickly.
9.

Travel through time and discover the colourful story of travel. See shiny buses, tube trains and trams of different centuries. As you step into the past you'll meet people who've kept London moving for 200 years. Hold tight as you put yourself in the driving seat and enjoy your journey.
10.

This museum is full of wonderful models of trains, buses, ships and cars. See the 1920s model Story Land Park and play the old slot-machines. It also has a nursery of the beginning of the 20th century. The wonderful collection of dolls contains different marionettes from Ancient Roman Gladiator doll to figures of today.