Nat 5 Music Tech – Styles & Genres

- You will be asked to listen to several excerpts and be asked to name the decade or style/ genre and key features typical of that style.
- You may also be asked to give a reason for you choosing a particular style/genre
- You may well also be asked to identify a relevant musical concept
- Below is a list of the styles and genres you will be expected to identify & some sample questions.

Styles and genres		
National 5	**National 4**	**National 3**
rock 'n' roll	ragtime	jazz
Scottish	swing	blues
Celtic rock	skiffle	rock
60s pop	synth pop	disco
punk	electronica	
country	dance music	
hip hop	rap	
musical		

(a) Listen to this excerpt. In which decade was this music recorded? Tick (✓) one box.

- ☐ 1930s
- ☐ 1950s
- ☐ 1970s
- ☐ 1990s

- ☐ Blues
- ☐ Ragtime
- ☐ Jazz
- ☐ Rock 'n' roll

Reason _____

(b) Listen to this excerpt. Tick (✓) one box to identify the genre/style.

- ☐ Disco
- ☐ Punk
- ☐ 60s Pop
- ☐ Rock 'n' roll

Listen to this excerpt.

Tick (✓) one box in COLUMN A to identify the style and one box in COLUMN B to describe the texture of the voices. The excerpt is short and will be played twice.

Here is the music for the first time.
Here is the music for the second time.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
☐ Rock 'n' Roll	☐ Homophonic
☐ Musical	☐ Polyphonic
☐ Ragtime	
☐ 60s Pop	

(c) Listen to that excerpt again. Describe two key features which are typical of the genre/style.

1 _____

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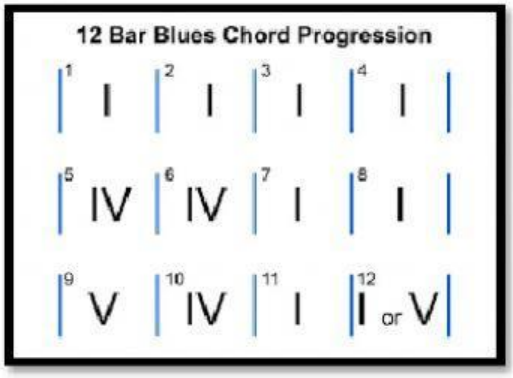
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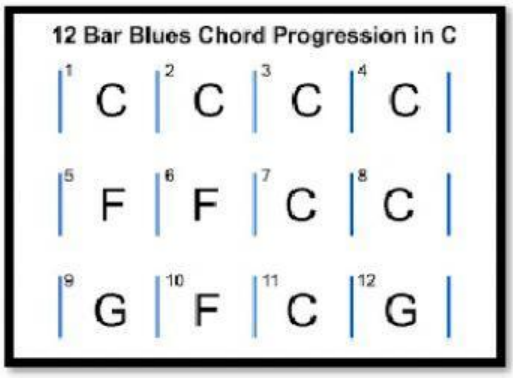
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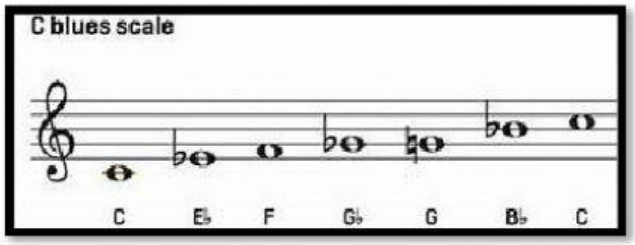
LIVEWORKSHEETS

Blues – Origins in late 1800s/early 1900s

- style of music evolving from African American spirituals/ work songs and noted for its melancholy sound. Blues originated in the US (Deep South) in the late 19th and early 20th century.
- Blues music is usually in 4/4 time
- It has a strong beat, and often the singers or players bend the notes, sliding up and down to them, creating great emotion.
- A sung blues usually has just 3 lines on each verse, each line with 4 bars. This creates a 12-bar structure (with just 3 chords and uses blues notes (flattened notes). The 12 bar blues structure has subsequently been used in jazz and rock n roll.
- It can be divided into Early acoustic Blues and later Electric Blues







Key innovator:

- Robert Johnson
- Bessie Smith
- Muddy Waters
- BB King

Key musical attributes:

- !2 bar blues chord progression
- Horn section – saxes/brass
- Backing vocals
- Emotional vocal delivery
- 4/4 time
- Slow tempo
- Blues scale
- Use of harmonica *(esp in acoustic blues)*

Key Technology:

- Early Multi track recording
- Use of Rhodes piano
- Recording as a live ensemble allowed interaction between performers

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Blues - Listening

Early acoustic blues:

Robert Johnson - *Cross Road Blues*

Electric blues

Muddy Waters – *Hoochie Coochie Man*

Bessie Smith – *Down hearted Blues*

BB King – *Three O'Clock Blues*

Leadbelly – *Goodnight Irene*

T-Bone Walker – *Call it stormy Monday*

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Jazz

At first this was music created by black Americans in the early 20th century. Features of the music may include syncopation and improvisation.

Key innovator:

- Louis Armstrong
- Duke Ellington
- Count Basie
- Miles Davies
- Billie Holiday

Improvisation

The performer makes up music during the actual performance. They don't have the melody written down to help, although there may be suggested chords as a guide. Improvisation is an important feature of jazz and popular music

Vamp

A rhythmic accompaniment with a bass note played on the beat and a chord off the beat. Usually played on piano or guitar.

Key musical features:

- Improvisation
- solo piano, drumkit and bass
- Use of saxophone
- Syncopation
- vamp style accomp
- Use of trumpet/ trombone
- Scat singing

Key Technology:

- Development of microphone technology leading to dynamic and condenser mics with better frequency and dynamic responses
- Live sound recording with little post production

Louis Armstrong – *Hello Dolly*

Miles Davies – *Blue Green*

Dizzy Gillespie – *Quintet*

Count Basie – Jazz Casual

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Ragtime

Early 1900s

Ragtime is a type of music, often for solo piano. e.g. music of Scott Joplin.
Popular around 1900-1910.
It is characterised by **syncopation** in the melody against a steady **vamp** style accompaniment.

Much of Joplin's ragtime music was played on player pianos. A player piano works on a pneumatic system where a vacuum is built up by bellows that are driven by pedals or an electric power. A paper roll (piano roll) is pulled over a metal bar with a row of punch holes. In the paper roll you can find punch holes too; one little hole for each tone.

Key musical features:

- Syncopation
- Solo piano
- Bright, cheerful
- Simple harmonies with chromatic notes
- Vamp accompaniment

Key Technology:

- Player pianos
- Piano rolls
- Wax cylinder

Key innovator:

- Scott Joplin

Scott Joplin – *Maple Leaf Rag*

Scott Joplin – *The Entertainer*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Rock

A style of popular music with a **heavy, driving beat.** It usually features **electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit.**

Rock' is a very broad genre of popular music. It originated as 'Rock and Roll' in the US in the early 1950s but by the late 1980s it had evolved into many sub genres.

Key Technology:

- Heavy use of reverb
- Use of distortion on guitar
- Lots of effects such as wah wah, delay, flanger, chorus
- Synthesisers (e.g. Moog synthesisers)

Key musical features

- Thick and heavy drums and bass
- Strong beat
- 4/4 time
- Electric instruments – guitars and synthesisers/ electric piano

- **Reverb -** *An electronic effect which can give the impression of different hall acoustics. For example, reverb can make a piece of music sound as if the performance is taking place in a cathedral.*

- **Distortion** on guitar - *An electronic effect used in rock music to colour the sound of an electric guitar – it gives it a 'grungy', 'dirty' sound*

- **Pitch bend -** *Changing the pitch of a note, for example, by pushing a guitar string upwards*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Rock

Progressive Rock

- Pink Floyd– *Dark side of the moon* (1973)
- Genesis– *Trespass(1970)*
- Yes– *Close to the edge(1972)*

Glam Rock

- David Bowie– *Life on Mars* (1973)
- Bryan Ferry – *Virginia Plain (1972)*
- Suzi Quatro– *Can the Can (1973)*

Psychedelic Rock

- Rolling Stones – *Paint it black (1966)*
- The Who – *I can see for miles (1967)*

Heavy Rock

- Jimmy Hendrix – *All along the watchtower*(1968)
- Led Zeppelin– *Stairway to heaven(1971)*
- Iron Maiden – *The Trooper(1983)*

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Swing 1930s-40s

- The name given generally to the popular jazz of the 1930s and 1940s often played by a big band and with 'swung' dotted rhythms and featuring 'big bands' with saxophones, trumpets, trombones, drums, bass and piano.

Key musical features:

- Large brass and reed section
- Mostly instrumental but some vocals
- Dotted, swung rhythms
- Fast tempo
- Walking bass

Key innovator:

- Duke Ellington
- Louis Armstrong
- Benny Goodman
- Glen Miller
- Billie Holliday
- Ella Fitzgerald

Key Technology:

- Development of microphone technology allowed for better frequency and dynamic responses
- Skill of the musicians in producing a balanced sound was important for clear recordings
- Development of radio for public broadcast

Glen Miller– *In the mood*

Glen Miller– *Chatanooga choo choo*

Benny Goodman – *Stompin' at the Savoy*

Benny Goodman– *Sometimes I'm happy*

LIVEWORKSHEETS