

Practice 2

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–14** which are based on Reading Passage 1 below

The instruments of the western orchestra are conventionally divided into four sections: woodwind, brass, percussion and strings. However, a much more comprehensive system for classifying musical instruments – ancient and modern, eastern and western, orchestral and folk – is also available. This alternative system, based on the work of Erich von Hornbostel and Curt Sachs, provides for the classification of musical instruments of all shapes and sizes according to how their sounds are produced. It begins by dividing instruments into four broad groups – aerophones, chordophones, idiophones and membranophones.

The first group, aerophones, contains any instrument that makes a sound when the air within or around it is made to vibrate. Further classification within the group is made according to how the air is set into vibration. Simplest are the so-called free aerophones (bull-roarers and buzzers), which consist of a flat disc twirled through the air on a string.

More typically, aerophones have a hollow tube or vessel body into which air is introduced by blowing. Sub-groups include instruments with a blow hole (most flutes) or a whistle mouthpiece (whistles and whistle flutes), in which the air vibrates after being blown against a sharp edge. In instruments with a cup mouthpiece, such as trumpets and horns, it is the action of the player's lips that causes the air to vibrate. Vibrations within a tube may also be produced by a reed taken into the musician's mouth. Such reeds may be single (clarinets) or double (oboes). Instruments classified as free reed aerophones, such as mouth organs and concertinas, have vibrating reeds within the body of the instrument. Organs and bagpipes are hybrid forms, each with pipes of different kinds.

The name chordophones is used for instruments with strings that produce a sound when caused to vibrate. Further classification is based on body shape and on how vibrations are induced. There are five basic types: bows, lyres, harps, lutes and zithers. The simplest musical bows have a single string attached to each end of a flexible stick; others have resonators to amplify the sound. Lyres, common in ancient times, have a four-sided frame consisting of a soundbox, two arms and a crossbar. The plucked strings run from the front of the soundbox to the crossbar. Harps are basically triangular in shape, with strings attached to a soundbox and the instrument's 'neck'.

Classified as lutes are all instruments with strings that run from the base of a resonating 'belly' up and along the full length of an attached neck. This sub-group is further divided into plucked lutes (round- or flat-backed), and bowed lutes (including folk fiddles and violins). The fifth type, zithers, have strings running the entire length of the body and are subdivided into simple zithers (stick, raft, tube or trough-shaped), long zithers (from the Far East), plucked zithers (such as the psaltery and harpsichord), and struck zithers (including the dulcimer and piano).



The third main group, idiophones, contains instruments made of naturally sonorous material, which are made to sound in various ways. They range in complexity from two sticks simply **struck** one against another, to tuned instruments like the orchestral glockenspiel. Idiophones are further classified according to the method of sound production into eight sub-groups: stamped, stamping, scraped, friction, shaken (bells and rattles), plucked (**Jew's harps**), concussion (when two sonorous parts are struck together, for example cymbals) and percussion (when a non-sonorous beater is used for striking). Percussion idiophones are further subdivided by shape into bars (metallophones, lithophones, xylophones), vessels (slit drums and steel drums), gongs and two types of bell (struck and clapper).

Hornbostel and Sachs termed their final broad group membranophones. In these instruments sound is produced by the vibration of a membrane or skin. Most drums fall into this category, being further classified by shape as frame, vessel and tubular drums, and by sounding method as friction drums. Tubular drums are further subdivided into long, footed, goblet, waisted, barrel, conical and cylindrical types. Much less important than drums are membranophones with an internal membrane vibrated by blowing, such as the kazoo.

The classification system of Hornbostel and Sachs, published in 1909, came before the burgeoning of electronic music in the second half of the twentieth century. The addition of a fifth group, to take in instruments that produce sound electronically (guitars, organs, synthesizers) would bring their system neatly up to date.

Questions 1–4

Choose **ONE** phrase from the list of phrases **A–I** below to complete each of the sentences **1–4** below. Write the appropriate letters in boxes **1–4** on your answer sheet.

- 1 Western orchestra instruments
- 2 In Hornbostel and Sachs' system, musical instruments
- 3 The classification of aerophones
- 4 Apart from the way sound is made, chordophones

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| <p>A are classified according to body shape.</p> <p>B are sometimes classified into four groups.</p> <p>C are usually classified into three groups.</p> <p>D are normally classified into four groups.</p> <p>E are classified according to sound production.</p> <p>F are classified according to volume of sound.</p> <p>G are classified according to sound quality.</p> <p>H is made according to how hot the air is.</p> <p>I is made according to how the air is made to vibrate.</p> |
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Questions 5–12

Using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each space, complete the chart below.

Types of chordophones i.e. 5.....	Description
6.....	Single strings attached to a single stick.
Harps	7..... attached to a soundbox and the instrument's neck.
8.....	with strings from the base of a resonating belly and along the length of an attached neck.
9.....	10..... with a soundbox, two arms and a crossbar
Zithers	are 11..... into simple, long, plucked and 12.....

Questions 13–14

Choose the appropriate letters **A–D** and write them in boxes 13–14 on your answer sheet.

13 The writer states that

- A electronic music fits neatly into the fourth group in the Hornbostel/Sachs classification system.
- B the kazoo belongs to the idiophone group.
- C electronic music is less important than other forms of music.
- D a fifth group needs to be added to the Hornbostel/Sachs classification system.

14 Which of the titles below is the most suitable heading for the passage?

- A Chordophones and idiophones
- B Musical instruments reclassified
- C A conventional classification
- D The work of Erich von Hornbostel