

# Genres & Styles in music

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. What is the definition of Genre in music:

- a. Means type or category
- b. It refers to broadly defining aspects shared by musical compositions
- c. Is like an “umbrella” that covers different styles and subgenres in music
- d. All of the above

Read the following information and answer the questions


### Style

Style in music relates to a series of aesthetic musical choices made by conductors, arrangers and musicians. These personal choices involve variations in rhythm, ways of picking or plucking strings, mood, melody and dynamics. Style imbues a sense of individualism and personality into the music and makes certain musicians, composers and conductors recognizable without hearing their name. In the modern era, style may also relate to the way that music is presented with packaging and imagery.

### Genre

Genre is the way in which combinations of musical styles, themes, sounds and instrumentation are categorized and sub-categorized to make them identifiable to music audiences. For example, blues music is easily identifiable by its lyrical content, instrumentation and musical style. The classical music genre is a slightly less specific genre as it spans several centuries, but it nonetheless tells a potential listener roughly what they can expect from the genre.

### Sub-genre

Sub-genre is arguably where style and genre become intertwined and where the differences between the two terms becomes difficult to distinguish. Genres are sub-categorized to distinguish between regional differences and variations in lyrical themes. For example, hip-hop is a collective term for music which is composed of a rapper or MC who raps over a produced beat. However, gangsta rap is a sub-genre of hip-hop because the lyrical content and musical style is specific to a collection of artists and certain geographic regions. It can be argued that the notion of a sub-genre is for marketing certain types of music to certain audiences by 

## **Classical**

Famous composers like Mozart wrote classical music. Classical music is often performed by an **orchestra** (large group of musicians), a **choir** (a group of singers) or a **soloist** (just one person). People usually say a '**piece**' of classical music rather than a 'tune' or 'song'.

## **Jazz and blues**

**Jazz and blues** were both originally from the USA. Jazz has a strong rhythm and notes are often **syncopated** (come between beats). The melody can be **improvised** (invented while it is played) and uses a wide range of different scales. Charlie Parker and Miles Davis are famous jazz artists. **Blues** is a style of music famous for being sad. The lyrics often share stories from the tough lives of the people who write blues songs. Jazz and blues developed when aspects of European and African music were combined. Rhythm and blues music was mostly played in bars and clubs.

## **Folk**

Folk music is the traditional music of a particular group of people. In record stores, it's common to see folk music from the UK and the USA. **Country music** is probably the most famous kind of folk music and is popular in many parts of the world.

## **Pop**

Every country in the world has its own pop stars. '**Pop**' is short for '**popular**' music and it means just that – it is the most popular or common form of music in most countries. Wherever you go in the world, it's easy to hear music from famous **pop stars** like Madonna or Lady Gaga whether you want to or not!

## Rock

Rock music is famous for being loud! Rock groups use electric guitars, bass and drums to create music with a strong beat and lots of energy. There are lots of sub-genres (styles) of rock such as metal, punk **and** prog-rock. With so many different styles of rock to choose from, no wonder it is so popular!. Rock'n'roll was very popular among teenagers in the 1950s.

## Dance

Dance music is the kind of music you usually hear in clubs and bars. It has a strong beat, is often repetitive, and is perfect for dancing to. Like rock, there are many different styles of dance music. Some are slow, some are fast, but they will all get you feet moving!

## Rap

Rap is different to most music genres in that it is usually spoken, not sung. The words rhyme, like a poem, and fit to the strong beat of the backing music.

6. Popular music genres like the blues, jazz and R&B first developed in

- a. Europe
- b. South America
- c. the USA

7. The blues and jazz developed when aspects of European and \_\_\_\_\_ music were combined.

- a. Asian
- b. African
- c. Middle Eastern

8. Jazz musicians can create new music spontaneously while playing. This is called

- a. improvising
- b. harmonizing
- c. jazzing up

9. Rhythm and blues music was mostly played in

- a. churches
- b. bars and clubs
- c. concert halls

10. Rock'n'roll was very popular among \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1950s.

- a. classical musicians
- b. jazz lovers
- c. teenagers

11. Dance music is the kind of music you usually hear where?

- a. concert halls
- b. the radio
- c. clubs and bars

12. Why Rap is different to most music genres?

- a. use different instruments
- b. is usually spoken, not sung
- c. is really poetic

13. Classical music is often performed by?

- a. an orchestra
- b. a choir
- c. a soloist
- d. All above

14. Why is called Pop music?

- a. famous musicians play it
- b. everybody listen to it
- c. is short for 'popular' music

15. What is the most famous folk music?

- a. Pop music
- b. Country music
- c. Jazz music

16. Match the Genres with the music

1. **Classical**

2. **Rap**

3. **Rock**

4. **Dance**

5. **Jazz and blues**

6. **Folk**

