

READING TEXTS A-F

English for Palestine | Music and Arab culture

A

Music is at the heart of life. We dance to music and music tells our feelings.

B

It changes feelings, too. It can make us sad and it can make us happy. It can make us quiet when we are angry. It can even make us feel better when we are sick. Music is amazing!

C

It is ancient, too. Thousands of years ago, people used to sing folk songs about their simple lives. And from these came much modern music - rock music, for example, in America in the 1950s.

D

Classical Arab music developed many centuries ago from the folk music of many cultures and from their poems. People used to put these to music, so singing was very important - and still is. People love great singers like Oum Kalthoum and Farid Al-Atrash.

E

However, musical instruments are very important, too, and many people agree that the greatest of these is the oud. People used to play a simple kind of oud six thousand years ago, but musicians developed the modern instrument about a thousand years ago. It remains a very important instrument today.

F

Arab music gave much to the music of Europe - like the oud, for example. There, the modern guitar developed from it two centuries ago, and this is now the world's favourite musical instrument.

Photo captions

Oum Kalthoum: singer. Farid Al-Atrash: singer and oud player.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

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Choose A, B, C or D in the answer box for each question.

1. According to paragraph A, music tells our _____.

- A. names B. feelings
C. ages D. jobs

2. What can music do when we are angry?

- A. Make us quiet B. Make us hungry
C. Make us late D. Make us busy

3. How can music help us when we are sick?

- A. Make us run faster B. Make us forget music
C. Make us feel better D. Make us work harder

4. How does the writer describe music in paragraph B?

- A. Boring B. Terrible
C. Expensive D. Amazing

5. What did people sing about thousands of years ago?

- A. Modern cars B. Their simple lives
C. Computers D. Space travel

6. Where did rock music develop?

- A. America B. Palestine
C. Egypt D. France

7. When did rock music develop in America?

- A. In the 1850s B. In the 1920s
C. In the 1950s D. In the 1990s

8. What did classical Arab music develop from?

- A. Rock music only B. European films
C. Modern guitars D. Folk music and poems

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

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Choose A, B, C or D in the answer box for each question.

9. When did classical Arab music develop?

- A. Last year B. Many centuries ago
C. In the 1990s D. Ten years ago

10. What was, and still is, important in classical Arab music?

- A. Singing B. Painting
C. Fishing D. Running

11. Who is described as a singer and oud player?

- A. Oum Kalthoum B. The writer
C. Farid Al-Atrash D. A European guitarist

12. Which instrument do many consider the greatest in Arab music?

- A. The piano B. The guitar
C. The violin D. The oud

13. When did people play a simple kind of oud?

- A. Two centuries ago B. Six thousand years ago
C. Fifty years ago D. In the 1950s

14. When did musicians develop the modern oud?

- A. About a thousand years ago B. About ten years ago
C. Two centuries ago D. In the 1950s

15. Where did the modern guitar develop from the oud?

- A. America B. Australia
C. Europe D. Africa

16. According to the text, what is the world's favourite instrument?

- A. The drum B. The piano
C. The oud D. The guitar

TRUE / FALSE AND ONE-WORD ANSWERS

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17-22: Choose True or False. 23-30: Type ONE word from the reading.

17. Music can make people both sad and happy.

18. Folk music began only a few years ago.

19. Classical Arab music developed from only one culture.

20. Oum Kalthoum is mentioned as a great singer.

21. The oud is no longer important today.

22. The modern guitar developed from the oud two centuries ago.

23. What do we dance to, according to paragraph A?

24. In which country did rock music develop?

25. Who developed the modern oud about a thousand years ago?

26. Which instrument developed from the oud in Europe?

27. Music is at the _____ of life.

28. People used to sing folk songs about their simple _____.

29. Find the opposite of "happy" in paragraph B.

30. Find the opposite of "modern" in paragraph C.