02 READING



Zoom in

1 Work in pairs and answer the questions.

1 What's the first CD or song you remember buying or downloading?
2 How often do you view YouTube clips?
3 Guess what songs or sort of music your partner has been listening to recently.

Multiple choice

2 Read the following text. Match the correct answer (A-D) with each question (1-4).

1 What was the problem for people who wanted to listen to pop music in the 1960s?
A They couldn't hear pop music on the radio every day.
B There was only a small number of radio stations.
C Pop music wasn't played a lot on radio stations.
D The presenters didn't want to play pop music.

2 Many people were against the pirate radio stations because these stations
A were broadcasting illegally.
B set a negative example for the young.
C played all day long.
D caused other normal stations to close down.

3 The film *The Boat That Rocked* shows
A how difficult life on the ship was for the DJs on board.
B how much the DJs enjoyed being famous on the radio.
C how rich the DJs on pirate ships could become.
D how deeply the DJs cared about the music they played.

4 In the article, the author mainly
A reviews an interesting film about pirate radio.
B gives information about how pirate radio developed.
C encourages people to listen to 1960s music.
D tells the story of one pirate radio DJ.

PIRATE RADIO

Today, music is easily available to us all. No matter what our taste is – whether we like soul, blues, pop, reggae, urban or any other type of music – we can tune into a radio station and hear it, or go online and download it. But it hasn't always been that easy.

When pop and rock music was starting to become very popular in the 1960s, there weren't many radio stations at the time that only played music, and the few that did weren't playing the type of music that young people really wanted to hear. The BBC radio presenters were allowed less than an hour a day. What happened next had an enormous effect not only on the musical tastes of generations of young people but also on the development of music itself. Pirate radio was born.

So, what exactly was and is pirate radio? The name speaks for itself. DJs started to broadcast non-stop music from boats at sea. By transmitting from international waters, the DJs weren't breaking any laws and the government couldn't close them down. However, a lot of people didn't like this. One reason was that pirate radio was competing with normal radio stations for audiences, but there was another reason too. The DJs on the boats had a very relaxed way of presenting and there were a lot of stories about the way they lived on the boats. They were blamed for badly influencing a whole generation of teenagers. Parents and politicians alike were very angry!

The film *The Boat That Rocked*, which came out in 2009, shows the life on board one of these pirate ships in great detail. Although the film did badly financially at the box office, it is well worth watching for anyone interested in the 1960s and its music. It is supposed to be based on the life of DJs on one of the first pirate ships, 'Radio Caroline'. This ship started broadcasting in 1964. The most important thing we learn from the film is not about the easy, casual lifestyle of the DJs. It's about their love of music and their desire to share this with the listeners. They really wanted to bring new sounds and new talent to radio.



A new law in 1967 banned pirate radio at sea, but some ships and land-based pirate stations continue to broadcast illegally today. They mainly play music for minority groups, who still can't hear the type of music they love from the normal stations. The pirate radio stations are part of our musical history and without them, who knows what sort of music we'd be listening to today!

1. Type your answers to the questions of ex.1 here:

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Fish for words

3 Complete the sentences with the correct words in the box.

blames	taste	banned	alike	minority

1 My brother's got a strange _____ in music! He likes singers from the 1940s!
2 My mum _____ me for losing her MP3 player but I really didn't take it!
3 We're under loads of pressure at school from parents and teachers _____ to do well.
4 They _____ DJs from playing this song on the radio in the 1960s but I don't understand why.
5 Only a _____ of the students liked the new cafeteria – most people hated it.

Multiple choice

EXAM TASK

4 Read the following text and match the questions (1-4) with the correct answer A, B, C or D according to the text.

A VIRTUAL CHOIR

Enjoy singing? Then read on for something that may interest you!
If you like music, in particular classical music, you may have heard of Eric Whitacre. He is a popular composer and conductor from Nevada, USA, who has written some wonderful music over the last twenty years. This music bridges the gap between traditional classical music of composers like Mozart or Tchaikovsky and the popular music that people enjoy today. However, you may know his name for a different reason. Eric Whitacre created the Virtual Choir, whose videos have been seen on YouTube by more than six million people.
Choirs have become very popular in recent years and have even been featured on reality TV shows, where choirs of different sizes, singing different types of music compete in front of judges to be voted for by the viewers and win the Best Choir prize. These choirs may have between five and fifty members. But Eric's Virtual Choir is something very different indeed!
In 2009 a young girl, called Britlin Losee, sent Eric a video of herself singing a piece of his music. Eric was hugely impressed by the video and put it on his website and then he had an amazing idea. What if hundreds of other people did the same thing? Suppose he asked people to record themselves singing the same song and send the videos to him? Eric could then put all the voices together to create an enormous virtual choir!
This thought led Eric on an incredible journey. After using 185 voices on his first virtual choir video in 2010, he became more and more ambitious. Last year he recorded his song, *Fly to Paradise*, with the voices and faces of 5,905 people from 101 countries! The participants are in ages range from six years old to ninety-eight. And they come from countries as far apart as the north of Norway and New Zealand.
The *Fly to Paradise* video is amazing. The singers' faces appear on thousands of windows in skyscraper buildings as they sing, and the soundtrack of their five thousand voices is unimaginably moving. The song is five minutes long but the credits that list the people in the video go on for eight minutes! It is incredible to think that each voice was recorded on a different webcam, smartphone or tablet in a bedroom, bathroom or basement. Do you want your voice to be heard? Then sign up for Eric's next project. Watch this space ...

1 **Why is Eric Whitacre's music so popular?**
A He is only twenty and young people like him.
B He is a strong traditionalist.
C He writes music similar to Mozart and Tchaikovsky's music.
D His music doesn't fit just one category.

2 **Eric Whitacre started his Virtual Choir**
A after a suggestion from one of his fans.
B when he was inspired by a video clip.
C because he wanted to enter a competition.
D so that he could advertise his own music.

3 **What is unusual about the *Fly to Paradise* video?**
A It was on the top of several tower blocks.
B Everyone in the video is a teenager.
C It uses voices of hundereds of people.
D It's very long.

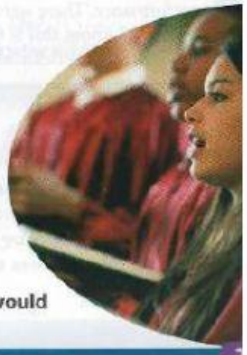
4 **In the article, the writer**
A relates a story filmed in a video clip.
B encourages singers to do something new.
C describes the career of a famous composer.
D explains why classical music is popular.

Fish for words

5 Complete the sentences with the correct words in the box.

featured	gap	signed	credits	members

1 There's a big age _____ between me and my younger sister.
2 The new boy band *Soulmates* _____ in the music programme on Saturday evening.
3 Our school choir has twenty-eight _____.
4 I know Max Halford was in the film but his name wasn't in the _____.
5 I think they're going to cancel the competition because not many people have _____ up for it.



Wrap it up

6 Tell your partner if you would like to be a musician. Why? Why not? What kind of music would you like to play or sing?

6. Would you like to be a musician? Why? Why not? What kind of music would you like to play or sing?

LIVEWORKSHEETS