

# Area of Study 5



# Conventions of Pop

# Suggested Use of this SOL

This scheme of learning is intended to be homework-based and uses the flipped learning concept.

Students are given the question or research sheet which includes the relevant link and QR code to the matching video on the virtual textbook to complete at home.

The following lesson, students are given the exemplar version (purple answers) and peer mark their answers. This can lead to teacher input and discussion. I normally show the video again at the start of this lesson.

Their answers combined with the exemplar version form a revision resource – so next lesson students are given the exam question or test that follows and again mark it against the mark scheme. Some of the questions may seem repetitive, this is intentional to help with recall. The vast majority of questions are not official – I have created them based on what I have seen in past and specimen listening papers, feel free to tweak as you like. A few questions are from old spec listening papers if they are still relevant.

There is a matching Kahoot for each task – I find Kahoot a great way to bring a lesson to a close or kick it off with a bang.

I stack the tasks, so lesson 1 will be task 1 given out, lesson 2 will be task 2 given out plus the marking of task 1, lesson 3 will be task 3 given out, peer marking of task 2 and exam question on task 1 and so on.

The scheme is designed to have little or no formal teacher marking, it relies on peer and self assessment – hence the mark schemes.

At the end of the scheme there are PLCs to check learning. I keep mine quite snappy, some may wish to expand these.

Finally, there's a page of cutout stickers for all the videos in this area – it's intended for students to stick these in their books for future reference.

Sometimes I make reference to the DIMPRATTTS method, this is simply a memory mnemonic to ensure that students mention everything they should: Dynamics, Instruments, Melody, Rhythm, Articulation, Tempo, Texture, Tonality, Structure – DIMPRATTTS.

**PLEASE NOTE: as the majority of my YouTube videos contain copyrighted material, they may be blocked from playing on mobile devices.**

# AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop

## 1. Voices in Pop

<https://youtu.be/W2rSTMiXT3Q>



1. What is the role of a lead singer?
2. Give an example of a famous lead singer.
3. Describe what singing in harmony is.
4. Describe what singing in unison is.
5. Describe the two ways that backing singers can use call and response.
6. What does a capella literally mean?
7. What does a capella mean in terms of practical use?
8. What is riffing?
9. What is vibrato?
10. What is melisma?
11. What is falsetto and how is it achieved?
12. What is scat singing or scatting?
13. What is portamento?
14. What is multi-tracking?
15. What is reverb?
16. What is delay?
17. Are reverb and echo the same thing? Explain the difference.
18. What is sampling?
19. Give a famous example of sampling.
20. What is a vocoder?
21. What is auto-tune?

[21 marks]

# AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop

## 1. Voices in Pop

<https://youtu.be/W2rSTMiXT3Q>



1. What is the role of a lead singer? *To sing the main tune/be the soloist.*
2. Give an example of a famous lead singer. *Freddie Mercury/Bon Jovi.*
3. Describe what singing in harmony is. *Different singers singing different notes which fit together.*
4. Describe what singing in unison is. *Everyone singing the same notes.*
5. Describe the two ways that backing singers can use call and response. *An exact repeat or a set response to a particular line.*
6. What does a capella literally mean? *'Of the chapel'.*
7. What does a capella mean in terms of practical use? *Singing without instruments.*
8. What is riffing? *Decorating a melody with extra notes.*
9. What is vibrato? *The voice wavering up and down to add expression.*
10. What is melisma? *Stretching a word or syllable over several notes.*
11. What is falsetto and how is it achieved? *Singing higher than the natural register using the edges of the vocal chords.*
12. What is scat singing or scatting? *Singing to nonsense words.*
13. What is portamento or glissando? *Sliding from one note to another.*
14. What is multi-tracking? *Layering up instruments or vocals.*
15. What is reverb? *Reverberation – makes it sound like it's in a bigger space.*
16. What is delay? *Another version starts slightly after the first.*
17. Are reverb and echo the same thing? Explain the difference. *No – if you apply enough reverb you may get an echo, but an echo is a repeat of what has come before. Reverb just makes it sound fuller.*
18. What is sampling? *Using someone else's music in your song.*
19. Give a famous example of sampling. *Dido Thank You in Eminem Stan.*
20. What is a vocoder? *It converts speech into digital signals.*
21. What is auto-tune? *A device to help singers find the right pitch in post production.*

[21 marks]

## Exam-Style Question 1

This question is taken from Area of Study 5 – Conventions of Pop. You will hear an extract of music played 3 times.

- a) There are no instruments used in this track. [1]  
Give the proper name for this type of singing. [1]
- e) The third artist enters higher again with a complementing part. Give the name for this technique. [1]

- b) Give the name for the technique used by the first vocalist. [1]
- f) In the chorus, the second vocalist sings 'Royals' and this is copied by the other singers. Give the correct name for this. [1]

- c) How many beats in bar are there? [1]

- g) This track is a cover. The singers may have decided to include parts from the original recording. Give the proper name for this [1].

- d) The second vocalist to begin singing is MALE. Give the name for the technique he is using to produce the high pitch. [1]

[7 marks]

Exam-Style Question 1

MARK SCHEME

(Music – Pentatonix Royals Cover - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9XQ2MdNgKY>)

Question	Marks Available
a)	A capella [1]
b)	Beatboxing [1]
c)	4 (accept 2) [1]
d)	Falsetto [1]
e)	Harmony – credit any response that references harmonising. [1]
f)	Call and Response (NOT echo). [1]
g)	Sampling [1]

Matching

# Kahoot!

Voices in Pop

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/?quizId=865d3809-e4a3-4c51-8dad-a08149835c73>

AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop  
2. Instruments of Pop  
<https://youtu.be/NzVanMOoT3g>



1. Describe the role of a lead guitarist.
2. Describe the role of a rhythm guitarist.
3. Describe the role of a bassist.
4. Describe the roll of a drummer in a rock/pop group.
5. Give an example of a pop song that uses piano.
6. What is a synthesizer?
7. What is a Hammond organ?
8. Describe distortion.
9. Describe chorus.
10. Describe flanger and phaser.
11. Describe wah wah.
12. What is panning?
13. Give an example of why an engineer might use panning?

[13 marks]



# AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop

## 2. Instruments of Pop

<https://youtu.be/NzVanMOoT3g>



1. Describe the role of a lead guitarist. *Play riffs, improvised solos and ornament the tune.*
2. Describe the role of a rhythm guitarist. *Play chords and fill out the harmony.*
3. Describe the role of a bassist. *Play single notes to form the foundation/bass line.*
4. Describe the roll of a drummer in a rock/pop group. *Provide the rhythmic drive.*
5. Give an example of a pop song that uses piano. *Adele – Someone Like You*
6. What is a synthesizer? *An instrument the produces electronic sound, sometimes to mimic a real instrument.*
7. What is a Hammond organ? *An electronic organ designed to mimic a pipe organ.*
8. Describe distortion. *The classic 'dirty' rock guitar sound.*
9. Describe chorus. *Sounds like multiple instruments are playing the same thing.*
10. Describe flanger and phaser. *Whooshing sound.*
11. Describe wah wah. *Literally makes the notes go wah wah.*
12. What is panning? *Having things in one stereo channel only or moving them around.*
13. Give an example of why an engineer might use panning? *To make a listener feel like they are in the band.*

[13 marks]

## Exam-Style Question 2

This question is taken from Area of Study 5 – Conventions of Pop. You will hear 2 extracts of music played twice each.

- a) Name the effect that has been applied to the vocals in extract A. [1]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e) In extract B the vocals enter with 'why don't you play the game?' The guitar immediately plays the same melody. Give the name for this. [1]  
\_\_\_\_\_

- b) Name TWO instruments heard in extract A. [2]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- c) Underline the correct statement. [1]

The snare plays on beats 1 and 3.

The snare plays on beat 2 and 4.

- f) The guitar has had several effects applied to it. Name one.  
\_\_\_\_\_

- g) Which of these words fills the blank? Underline your chosen answer.

- d) Extract B starts with a breakdown. An effect has been used which is most noticeable on headphones. Name this effect. [1]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The guitar solo is \_\_\_\_\_.

Harmonised      Notated      Improvised

[8 marks]

## Exam-Style Question 2

### MARK SCHEME

(Music – Daft Punk, Digital Love - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOngRDVtEQI>)

Question	Marks Available
a)	Vocoder or Auto-Tune (NOT electronic) [1]
b)	Drums, Synthesizer/Keyboard, <u>Electric Guitar</u> , <u>Bass Guitar</u> [1] 2 marks for any 2 instruments.
c)	Snare plays on 2 and 4 [1]
d)	Panning [1]
e)	Call and Response[1]
f)	Distortion, flanger, phaser – any suitable effect except for chorus. [1]
g)	Improvised [1]

Matching

# Kahoot!

Instruments of Pop

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/?quizId=79446cba-433b-4c0c-b7e0-71e909ea17c6>

# AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop

## 3. Blues to Rock 'n' Roll

<https://youtu.be/51PBI9CIITs>



1. Describe the roots of Blues.
2. Explain where the name 'Blues' comes from.
3. Name a famous Blues musician.
4. Name 3 typical Blues instruments.
5. Give the alternative name for the harmonica.
6. What is a blue note?
7. Which notes are flattened in a Blues scale?
8. Which three chords make up a 12-Bar-Blues?
9. Give the chord layout in a 12-Bar-Blues sequence.
10. Name and describe two types of bassline commonly used across Blues, Jazz and Rock 'n' Roll.
11. Explain the difference between straight and swung rhythms.
12. Name a swing artist.
13. Name three famous Rock 'n' Roll artists.
14. Which instrument is most important in Rock 'n' Roll?
15. Give an example of a Surf group.
16. Explain what is meant by the 'British Invasion' and give two groups who formed part of it.

[16 marks]

# AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop

## 3. Blues to Rock 'n' Roll

<https://youtu.be/51PBI9CIITs>



1. Describe the roots of Blues. African slaves singing work songs.
2. Explain where the name 'Blues' comes from. Blues lyrics tend to be about hardship – the colour blue is cold.
3. Name a famous Blues musician. Fred McDowell.
4. Name 3 typical Blues instruments. Guitar, bass, drums.
5. Give the alternative name for the harmonica. The Blues harp.
6. What is a blue note? A note that doesn't fit with normal harmony.
7. Which notes are flattened in a Blues scale? 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
8. Which three chords make up a 12-Bar-Blues? I, IV and V.
9. Give the chord layout in a 12-Bar-Blues sequence. I, I, I, I, IV, IV, I, I, V, IV, I, I.
10. Name and describe two types of bassline commonly used across Blues, Jazz and Rock 'n' Roll. Walking (notes move in crotchets and by small intervals) and Boogie Woogie (paired notes, long then short – fits with the words Boogie Woogie).
11. Explain the difference between straight and swung rhythms. Straight – all notes are even length. Swung – first note long, second note short.
12. Name a swing artist. Glenn Miller.
13. Name three famous Rock 'n' Roll artists. Bill Haley, Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry.
14. Which instrument is most important in Rock 'n' Roll? Electric Guitar.
15. Give an example of a Surf group. The Beach Boys.
16. Explain what is meant by the 'British Invasion' and give two groups who formed part of it. The Beatles, The Who.

[16 marks]

### Exam-Style Question 3

This question is taken from Area of Study 5 – Conventions of Pop. You will hear a piece of music played twice.

a) Underline all of the statements which apply. [4]

The structure is verse/chorus

The structure is strophic

The structure is binary

The song uses a 12-Bar-Blues sequence

The song uses a Boogie-Woogie bass

There is close harmony backing singing

b) Which instrument provides the improvised solos in this song? [1]

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c) Suggest a suitable artist for this song. [1]

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d) A lot of this song is off-beat. Give the correct term for this. [1]

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[7 marks]

Exam-Style Question 3

MARK SCHEME

(Music – Elvis, Hound Dog - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eHJ12Vhpyc>)

Question	Marks Available
a)	<p>1 mark for each statement:</p> <p>The structure is verse/chorus The structure is strophic (verse/chorus strophic – all of the verses and choruses are the same) The song uses a 12-Bar-Blues sequence There is close harmony backing singing (during the guitar solos)</p>
b)	<p><u>Electric</u> guitar [1]</p>
c)	<p>Elvis Presley (credit any MALE Rock 'n' Roll artist) [1]</p>
d)	<p>Syncopated [1]</p>



Matching

# Kahoot!

Blues to Rock 'n' Roll

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/?quizId=8f491df5-2aeb-44cc-86ad-450feea9d27a>

# AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop

## 4. Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads and Solo Artists

<https://youtu.be/1aH6TGNmRmE>



1. Which features of the 12-Bar-Blues did Rock music keep even though the sequence itself became less used?
2. Give two examples of how musicians started to experiment with Rock songs in the 1970s.
3. What is a concept album?
4. What is Prog Rock? Give an example group.
5. What is Glam Rock? Give an example group.
6. What is Hard Rock? Give an example group.
7. What is Heavy Metal? Give an example group.
8. What is Punk Rock? Give an example group.
9. What is a Power Ballad?
10. What is a singer-songwriter? Give two examples.
11. Why are ballads frequently covered?
12. Give two techniques that an artist can use to draw attention to particular lyrics.
13. Why is it that solo artists now dominate the music industry?
14. Give an example of an artist that has had to 'reinvent' themselves.
15. Give an example of an artist who has embarked on a solo career after being a member of a successful group.

[15 marks]

# AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop

## 4. Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads and Solo Artists

<https://youtu.be/1aH6TGNmRmE>



- |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Which features of the 12-Bar-Blues did Rock music keep even though the sequence itself became less used? <i>Use of chords I, IV and V (with VI added) – 4/4 time signature, driving rhythms.</i> | 11. Why are ballads frequently covered? <i>Because the stories often apply to lots of artists.</i>                                       |
| 2. Give two examples of how musicians started to experiment with Rock songs in the 1970s. <i>Length of songs, structure of songs.</i>                                                               | 12. Give two techniques that an artist can use to draw attention to particular lyrics. <i>Crescendo and rubato.</i>                      |
| 3. What is a concept album? <i>An album with a theme running through it.</i>                                                                                                                        | 13. Why is it that solo artists now dominate the music industry? <i>Talent shows like X Factor.</i>                                      |
| 4. What is Prog Rock? Give an example group. <i>Progressive Rock – experimental rock – Pink Floyd.</i>                                                                                              | 14. Give an example of an artist that has had to ‘reinvent’ themselves. <i>Madonna.</i>                                                  |
| 5. What is Glam Rock? Give an example group. <i>Theatrical Rock music – lots of costumes and make up. Kiss.</i>                                                                                     | 15. Give an example of an artist who has embarked on a solo career after being a member of a successful group. <i>Justin Timberlake.</i> |
| 6. What is Hard Rock? Give an example group. <i>Aggressive Rock – Led Zeppelin.</i>                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                          |
| 7. What is Heavy Metal? Give an example group. <i>Even more aggressive than Heavy Rock. Black Sabbath.</i>                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                          |
| 8. What is Punk Rock? Give an example group. <i>Anarchic/ rebellious rock. The Sex Pistols.</i>                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                          |
| 9. What is a Power Ballad? <i>A song that tells a story but has Rock elements.</i>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                          |
| 10. What is a singer-songwriter? Give two examples. <i>An artist that writes and performs their own songs. Elton John and Kate Bush.</i>                                                            |                                                                                                                                          |

[15 marks]

### Exam-Style Question 4

This question is taken from Area of Study 5 – Conventions of Pop. You will hear two extracts of music played twice each.

Extract A is of the introduction and first verse. Extract B is of the final chorus. In the table below, discuss how the different musical features help to contrast the two sections of the song. You may discuss both similarities and differences. There are 2 marks available for each box.

Musical Element	Extract A	Extract B
Vocal Technique		
Dynamics		
Instruments		

[6 marks]

# Exam-Style Question 4 – MARK SCHEME

Music – Adele, Skyfall - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeumyOzKqgl>

Musical Element	Extract A	Extract B
Vocal Technique	Solo singer [1] Female [1] Vibrato [1] Melisma [1] Riffing [1] Award up to two marks	<u>Lead</u> singer [1] <u>Backing</u> singers [1] Call and response [1] Descant/high pitch [1] Melisma [1] Riffing/improvisation [1] Award up to two marks
Dynamics	Soft/medium soft [1] Piano/mezzo piano [2] Award up to two marks	Loud [1] Forte [2] Award up to two marks
Instruments	Brass at very beginning [1] Piano accompaniment [1] Strings at very end [1] Award up to two marks	Full orchestra [2] Strings [1] Brass [1] Drums [1] Award up to two marks  <u>Discretion advised in all boxes</u>

Matching

# Kahoot!

Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads and Solo Artists

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/?quizId=87cc14fb-775a-447a-960d-1fbea280ec12>

# KS4 Music AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop – PLC

NAME:		
DATE:		
Success Criteria	9-1 Score	Evidence
1. I can give details of the roles of lead and backing singers and identify techniques used by each.		
2. I can identify the main instruments used in Rock and Pop and give information about them.		
3. I can discuss electronic effects applied to instruments and voices in Pop and Rock.		
4. I can discuss the origins of Blues and give details of its important musical features.		
5. I can discuss the origins of Rock 'n' Roll and give details of its important musical features.		
6. I can discuss how Rock 'n' Roll developed into Rock.		
7. I can identify and discuss the different sub-genres of Rock.		
8. I can give details about (Power) Ballads and Rock Anthems.		
9. I can discuss the role of the solo singer in the modern music industry.		

AOS 5

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Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads  
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