

# Jazz History Explorers

Music History · Practice Test · 18 Questions

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**1. Which city is widely recognized as the birthplace of jazz music?**

- A) New York City
- B) Chicago
- C) New Orleans
- D) Los Angeles

**2. What is the term for the musical technique where a singer makes up nonsense syllables to sound like an instrument?**

- A) Syncopation
- B) Scat singing
- C) A cappella
- D) Harmonizing

**3. Which famous jazz trumpeter was known by the nickname 'Satchmo'?**

- A) Miles Davis
- B) Dizzy Gillespie
- C) Louis Armstrong
- D) Duke Ellington

**4. In the early 1900s, what was the name of the place in New Orleans where enslaved people gathered to play music?**

- A) Congo Square
- B) Times Square
- C) Central Park
- D) French Quarter

**5. Which composer wrote 'The Entertainer' and is known as the 'King of Ragtime'?**

- A) George Gershwin
- B) Scott Joplin
- C) Count Basie
- D) Thelonious Monk

**6. What is the musical term for the 'off-beat' rhythms that are a core part of jazz?**

- A) Tempo
- B) Syncopation
- C) Melody
- D) Chorus

**7. Which female jazz singer was famous for her wide range and was called the 'First Lady of Song'?**

- A) Billie Holiday
- B) Nina Simone
- C) Ella Fitzgerald
- D) Etta James

**8. What type of jazz ensemble features a large group of musicians with sections for trumpets, trombones, and saxophones?**

- A) String Quartet
- B) Big Band
- C) Rock Band
- D) Marching Band

**9. Which jazz instrument did Adolphe Sax invent in the 1840s?**

- A) Trumpet
- B) Clarinet
- C) Saxophone
- D) Flute

**10. Who was the bandleader and pianist known for his long residency at the Cotton Club in Harlem?**

- A) Charlie Parker
- B) Duke Ellington
- C) Benny Goodman
- D) John Coltrane

**11. Which jazz style, popular in the 1940s, is known for its very fast tempo and complex melodies?**

- A) Swing
- B) Bebop
- C) Cool Jazz
- D) Smooth Jazz

**12. Which jazz musician was famous for playing a trumpet with a bell that pointed upwards at a 45-degree angle?**

- A) Dizzy Gillespie
- B) Chet Baker
- C) Louis Armstrong
- D) Miles Davis

**13. What is the name of the 1959 album by Miles Davis that became the best-selling jazz record of all time?**

- A) Giant Steps
- B) Blue Train
- C) Kind of Blue
- D) Head Hunters

**14. Which musical tradition involves a leader playing a phrase and the rest of the group repeating or answering it?**

- A) Improvisation
- B) Call and response
- C) Soloing
- D) Vamping

**15. Benny Goodman was a famous bandleader who played which woodwind instrument?**

- A) Oboe
- B) Flute
- C) Clarinet
- D) Bassoon

**16. What is the term for making up music on the spot during a jazz performance?**

- A) Composition
- B) Improvisation
- C) Notation
- D) Transcription

**17. Which jazz pianist and composer was known for his unique hats and 'dissonant' style of playing?**

- A) Thelonious Monk
- B) Dave Brubeck
- C) Herbie Hancock
- D) Chick Corea

**18. Which famous piece by George Gershwin combined jazz elements with a classical symphony orchestra?**

- A) Summertime
- B) Rhapsody in Blue
- C) Take the A Train
- D) Sing, Sing, Sing