

Fundamentals of Jazz History

Jazz History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which American city is historically recognized as the birthplace of jazz in the early 20th century?

- A) New Orleans**
- B) Chicago
- C) New York City
- D) St. Louis

2. What is the primary musical characteristic of jazz that involves playing notes off the main beat?

- A) Syncopation**
- B) Crescendo
- C) Staccato
- D) Legato

3. Which instrument is most commonly associated with Louis Armstrong, a seminal figure in early jazz?

- A) Trumpet**
- B) Violin
- C) Cello
- D) Flute

4. In which decade of the 20th century did the 'Swing Era' become the dominant form of popular music in the United States?

- A) 1930s**
- B) 1910s
- C) 1960s
- D) 1980s

5. Duke Ellington was a major composer and leader of which type of large jazz ensemble?

- A) Big band**
- B) String quartet
- C) Woodwind quintet
- D) Brass trio

6. Bebop, a style characterized by fast tempos and complex chord progressions, emerged in which decade?

A) 1940s

B) 1920s

C) 1970s

D) 1990s

7. Which jazz musician is famous for the 1959 album 'Kind of Blue', the best-selling jazz record of all time?

A) Miles Davis

B) John Coltrane

C) Charlie Parker

D) Thelonious Monk

8. What is the term for a jazz performance where a musician creates music spontaneously without written notation?

A) Improvisation

B) Transcription

C) Composition

D) Arrangement

9. Which scale, often used in jazz, features a flattened third, fifth, and seventh note?

A) Blues scale

B) Major scale

C) Harmonic minor

D) Phrygian mode

10. 'The Jazz Age' is a term historically used to describe which decade in American history?

A) 1920s

B) 1940s

C) 1950s

D) 1960s

11. Which jazz singer was nicknamed 'The First Lady of Song'?

A) Ella Fitzgerald

B) Billie Holiday

C) Sarah Vaughan

D) Nina Simone

12. What specific rhythmic style, emphasizing the 'swing' feel, was popularised by the big bands of the 1930s?

A) Swing rhythm

B) Polka

C) Waltz

D) March