

Fundamentals of Jazz History

Jazz History · Practice Test · 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