

Jazz History Essentials

Music History · Practice Test · 12 Questions

1. In which American city did jazz music originate during the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

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

2. Which brass instrument is Louis Armstrong most famous for playing?

- A) Trombone
- B) Tuba
- C) Trumpet
- D) Saxophone

3. What is the term used to describe making up music on the spot during a jazz performance?

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

4. Duke Ellington was a famous composer and bandleader known for playing which instrument?

- A) Drums
- B) Piano
- C) Guitar
- D) Bass

5. Which decade is often referred to as the 'Jazz Age'?

- A) 1920s
- B) 1950s
- C) 1980s
- D) 1910s

6. What style of jazz, popular in the 1930s and 1940s, was designed for large dance bands?

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

7. Which famous jazz singer was known as the 'First Lady of Song'?

- A) Billie Holiday
- B) Ella Fitzgerald
- C) Nina Simone
- D) Sarah Vaughan

8. What rhythmic technique, where notes are played with a uneven, 'long-short' feel, is a hallmark of jazz?

- A) Staccato
- B) Legato
- C) Swing
- D) Syncopation

9. Miles Davis was a major figure in which subgenre of jazz?

- A) Ragtime
- B) Dixieland
- C) Cool Jazz
- D) Big Band

10. Which jazz musician was nicknamed 'Bird' and was a leading figure in the development of bebop?

- A) Charlie Parker
- B) Thelonious Monk
- C) Count Basie
- D) Benny Goodman

11. What is the primary musical structure often used as a basis for jazz improvisation?

- A) Sonata
- B) Blues
- C) Overture
- D) Concerto

12. Which instrument is typically used to provide the 'walking bass' line in a jazz rhythm section?

- A) Double Bass
- B) Acoustic Guitar
- C) Cello
- D) Clarinet