



Topic Overview - Music
Year 8
Unit 1 - Blues Music



What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

Secure:
 You will develop an understanding of Blues music and how it has influenced music today. You will develop keyboard skills and learn to play walking bass lines, the 12-bar blues chord sequence and a blues melody.

What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?

- Blues music - learning about the background and the way blues has influenced popular music
 - Playing the 12 bar blues chord sequence, walking bass lines and blues melody - using 2 hands on the keyboard
 - Ensemble performance

What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

This topic builds upon your knowledge of musical elements and enables you to develop your keyboard skills, including playing with 2 hands, using the correct hand position, and enables you to develop your ensemble skills.

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

The knowledge and skills that you develop during this topic will help you with your future learning.

How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

You will receive regular feedback during this topic and will be given personal targets to improve your work

Secure :

I can play the blues walking bass and chord sequence with 2 hands, with mainly good accuracy and fluency. I may also play some of the blues melody with the chords

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic? Triads, improvisation, structure, sharps and flats, walking bass, bass line, ensemble, 7ths, chord progression, swung quavers, rhythm, syncopation, slide, glissando, melodic motifs, dotted notes

What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
History of the Blues 12 bar blues chord sequence	Walking bass line and chord sequence	Listening, blues techniques and blues melody	Listening, blues melody
Lesson 5	Lesson 6	Lesson 7	
HL retrieval task, Blues practise lesson	Blues performances	Reflection and improvements, ensemble skills	

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C

12 Bar Blues chord sequence

- African slaves brought their musical traditions with them when they were forced to work as slaves in America.
- Early types of African American music included **spirituals** (religious songs using vocal harmony) and **work songs**.
- **Work songs** were sung rhythmically in time with the task being done. They used **call and response** in which phrases from a lead singer were followed by the other singers. The slaves would sing the songs that they used to sing in Africa. They sang as they were working to communicate with each other, ease their boredom and keep them going.
- They often sang about their feelings and their hopes that one day they would be free.

12 Bar Blues: Chords and Walking Bass (Advanced)

What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

Secure:
 You will develop your understanding of Blues music and will learn how to use the Blues scale to improvise and compose your own piece of Blues Music. You will record your composition using computer software.

What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?

- Learning how to improvise on the keyboard
- Creating your own Blues composition
- Learning how to use specific Blues techniques to enhance and improve your composition

What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

This topic builds upon your knowledge of blues music and enables you to use your knowledge and keyboard skills to compose and perform your own blues music.

How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

You will receive regular feedback during this topic and will be given personal targets to improve your work

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

The knowledge and skills that you develop during this topic will help you with your future learning and leads on from the work you have already done on Blues music.

Secure :
 I can improvise and compose melodic ideas within the 12 bar blues structure. I have used all of the notes of the blues scale and have used swing rhythms.

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic? Triads, improvisation, structure, sharps and flats, walking bass, bass line, ensemble, 7ths, chord progression, swung quavers, rhythm, syncopation, slide, glissando, melodic motifs, dotted notes

What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
Learning to play the Blues scale and improvisation	Developing improvisation skills and listening	Creating a Blues composition
Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6
Blues composition	Notation and recording the composition	Assessment and listening

Blues improvisation

Blues scale

C Eb F F# G Bb C

Swing rhythm

- 1 Improvise using the first 3 notes of the Blues scale with your right hand. Try to play whilst your partner plays the blues chords at the same time. Think about using a swing rhythm.
- 2 Improvise using more of the notes of the Blues scale and try to play the chords with your left hand at the same time. Keep your improvisation rhythmic and in-time with the chords.

- 3 Improve interesting rhythmic and melodic patterns using all the notes of the Blues scale whilst playing the chords with your left hand. Try to play with a backing rhythm and stay in-time with the beat.

When you have created melodic ideas that you like, notate them on your composition sheet, writing down the letters of the notes that you are using. Make sure each bar adds up to 4 beats.

5 Notate your composition

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C

12-bar Blues chords



Topic Overview - Music
Year 8
Unit 3/4 - Rock 'n' Roll



What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

Secure:
 You will develop your understanding of Rock 'n' Roll music and how Blues music influenced this. You will learn how to play Hound Dog, adding a walking bass line and will develop ensemble skills.

What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?

- Learn about the key musical features of Rock 'n' Roll music
- Learn about chords and triads, how these are constructed and formed from a bass line and how they create harmony
- Develop keyboard skills by playing Hound Dog, and adding chords.
- Develop rhythmic awareness - dotted notes, swing rhythm and syncopation

What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

This topic builds upon your knowledge of blues music and looks at how blues has influenced popular music. It enables you to use your knowledge and keyboard skills to perform Rock 'n' Roll music.

How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

You will receive regular feedback during this topic and will be given personal targets to improve your work

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

The knowledge and skills that you develop during this topic will help you with your future learning and leads on from the work you have already done on Blues music.

Secure :

Learn to play the melody with your right hand, focusing on accuracy and fluency and add *some* of the chords with your left hand.
 Play melody / bass line as a duet.
 Sing Hound Dog as part of the class with good accuracy of pitch.

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic? Bass line, chord, chord progression, triads, harmony, lyrics, scat singing, hooks, riffs, dotted notes, swing rhythms, syncopation

What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?

Learning activities		
Learning about Rock 'n' Roll music	Playing Hound Dog - melody, chords and bass-line	Rock 'n' Roll listening
Hound Dog performance	Writing a Rock 'n' Roll song	Ensemble performances and singing

Rock n Roll music

The 1950's and 1960's was the era of **rock 'n' roll** music. Many people would say it began in New York on 12 April 1954 when Bill Haley and the Comets recorded **Rock around the Clock** featuring the exciting new amplified **electric guitar**.

Haley's music was a mixture of popular styles, especially **rhythm and blues** with **country and western**. It was a brash sound and possessed an energy and drive particularly appealing to young people.

New rock 'n' roll stars included **Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Chuck Berry** and **Buddy Holly**. It was their music that laid the foundations for pop music today.

ROCK 'N' ROLL – A NEW STYLE

- Arose from a mixture of country and western with rhythm and blues
- Usually uses the twelve-bar blues structure based on a repeated sequence using three chords
- Basic rock beat developed from jazz
- Solo singer accompanied by a variety of instruments such as piano, guitar, string bass, drums, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or backing singers. Amplified instruments were gradually becoming available
- Simple lyrics
- Heard in live dance halls, on juke boxes in coffee bars and on radio
- Dances such as the jive and the twist
- Scat singing (a type of jazz singing where nonsense syllables are used – e.g. doo wah)
- Fashions – for boys: narrow lapels on jackets and drain-pipe trousers, white socks, string ties, cow-llick hair; for girls: full ballerina-length skirts, "waspy" belts, flat slip-on shoes, pony tails

Hound Dog – Elvis Presley

The musical score is presented in 4/4 time. It features a piano part with a treble and bass clef, and a bass line. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated by letters in boxes above the notes. The score is divided into three systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 5, 9). Silhouettes of Elvis Presley in his signature pose are placed on either side of the score.



Topic Overview - Music

Year 8

Unit 5 - Reggae Music



What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

Secure:
You will develop an understanding of Reggae music, and develop your performance skills on the keyboard, building upon the last topic where you added an independent left hand part, you will focus on playing a syncopated riff and off-beat chords, as well as adding the melody.

What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

This topic builds upon your knowledge of blues and African American musical styles and the musical genres that have developed out of these styles.

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

The knowledge and skills that you develop during this topic will help you with your future learning and leads on from the work you have already done so far this year.

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic? Off-beats, bass line, riff, call & response, ensemble, rhythm, syncopation, improvisation, harmonies

What is the structure of learning/lessons in this topic?

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
Reggae Music - the background. Off-beat chords and riff.	'Don't Worry' - singing and keyboard practise. Developing ensemble skills.	Listening and 'Don't Worry' practise.
Lesson 4	Lesson 5	
Listening, singing and 'Don't Worry' performance	Exploring Reggae artists.	

What are the key concepts, knowledge and skills?

- Performing Reggae music, focusing on off-beat chords and syncopation
- Playing a riff and off-beat chords
- Developing listening skills
- Performing with a partner and as a class
- Developing your understanding and use of bass clef notation

How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

You will receive regular feedback during this topic and will be given personal targets to improve your work.

Secure :

- I can play the melody of 'Don't Worry' with some of the off-beat chords.
- I can also play off-beat chords and the syncopated riff.
- I can play with increasing awareness of the other parts when playing with an ensemble.

A. How did Reggae develop?

REGGAE is one of the traditional musical styles from JAMAICA. It developed from :



Reggae was first heard in the UK in the 1950's when immigrants began to settle. During the 1960's, people began importing singles from Jamaica to sell in UK shops. Now, Reggae is known as the national music of Jamaica.

B. Where is Jamaica?



C. What are Reggae Songs About?

Reggae is closely associated with RASTAFARIANISM (a religious movement worshipping Haile Selassie as the Messiah and that black people are the chosen people and will eventually return to their African homeland). The LYRICS of Reggae songs are strongly influenced by Rastafarianism and are often political including themes such as LOVE, BROTHERHOOD, PEACE, POVERTY, ANTI-RACISM, OPTIMISM and FREEDOM.

D. Offbeat Rhythms & Syncopation

OFFBEAT RHYTHMS – Rhythms that emphasise or stress the WEAK BEATS OF A BAR. In music that is in 4/4 time, the first beat of the bar is the strongest, the third the next strongest and the second and fourth are weaker. Emphasising the second and fourth beats of the bar gives a “missing beat feel” to the rhythm and makes the music sound OFFBEAT, often emphasised by the BASS DRUM or a RIM SHOT (hitting the edge of a SNARE DRUM) in much Reggae music.

ONBEAT RHYTHM GRID

Pulse/Beat	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Onbeat Rhythms (strong beats)	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

OFFBEAT RHYTHM GRID

Pulse/Beat	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Offbeat Rhythms (weak beats)	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

SYNCOPIATION – A way of changing a rhythm by making some notes a bit early, often so they cross over the main beat of the music giving the music a further OFFBEAT feel – another common feature of Reggae music.

E. Musical Features of Reggae

OFFBEAT RHYTHMS AND CHORDS (see D)
SYNCOPIATED RHYTHMS AND MELODIES (see D)
SUNG LYRICS (see C)
LEAD SINGER often with **BACKING SINGERS** sometimes singing in **CALL AND RESPONSE** (see F3) accompanied by a Reggae band which often features: **BRASS INSTRUMENTS** and **SAXOPHONES, ELECTRIC GUITARS, BASS GUITAR, KEYBOARDS, DRUMS AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS.**
VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL IMPROVISATIONS (see F2)
MELODIC RIFFS (see F5)
SLOW, RELAXED ("chilled!") TEMPO
4/4 METRE/TIME SIGNATURE
 Most Reggae songs are structured in **VERSE AND CHORUS/POPULAR SONG FORM.**
SIMPLE HARMONIES (see F4)



THICK TEXTURAL LAYERS (see F9)
 "The Reggae Trifle" is an example of how many Reggae songs are 'layered'.

- LYRICS (MELODY)
- SYNCOPIATED RHYTHMS
- RIFFS
- OFFBEAT CHORDS
- BASS LINE RIFFS