



Home Learning 1 - 28/9/26
Year 8
Unit 1 - Blues Music



12 Bar Blues Chord Sequence

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



C chord = C E G
F chord = F A C
G chord = G B D

KEYWORDS

Walking Bass	The bass part in the Blues 'walks' up the notes of a chord creating a 'walking bass' part
12 Bar Blues	Traditional blues style, using 3 chords over a 12-bar cycle.
Syncopation	When music is played on the off-beat
Improvisation	Music that is made up on the spot by a performer, often based on a given chord progression or set of notes
Swing Rhythm	When playing quavers, the first quaver is given a bit longer as it steals time from the second quaver to give the music a swinging feel.
Spiritual	Songs sung by slaves in the 19 th century with themes of yearning for freedom, to be lifted out of suffering and the belief that a higher power will help a person persevere in tough times.

- 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.

Home Learning - Read and use the information about Blues Music. You need to answer the questions below, and **learn the information for a test next lesson (w/b 5th October)**.

1	How many bars are in the blues chord sequence?	
2	Write out the chords that are in the chords sequence:	
3	What notes are in the C chord?	
4	What is a 'walking bass'?	
5	What does 'syncopation' mean?	
6	What is a 'swing rhythm'?	
7	What were the two early types of African American music?	
8	What is a 'work song'?	
9	What does 'call and response' mean?	
10	What did the slaves often sing about?	