



**Home Learning 4 - Music**  
**Year 8 - Unit 3**

**Rock n Roll Music** (Due w/b 23/2/26)



**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-lick hair; for girls: full ballerina-length skirts, “waspy” belts, flat slip-on shoes, pony tails

**Home Learning** - Read and use the information about Rock n Roll music to answer the retrieval questions. You should spend time learning this information as you will be tested on this next lesson.

1	In which decade did Rock n Roll music start to become popular?	
2	What is the name of the group who released 'Rock Around the Clock'?	
3	What was the exciting new instrument that was used in Rock n Roll?	
4	Which two musical styles is Rock n Roll a mixture of?	
5	Name 3 Rock n Roll stars.	
6	What chord structure is used in Rock n Roll?	
7	Name 5 instruments commonly used in Rock n Roll.	
8	Where was the music heard? Name two.	
9	Which dance styles were popular at the time? Name two.	
10	Explain what scat singing is.	



# Devising Techniques: From Spark to Stage

Devising is the process of creating a performance from scratch without a pre-existing script. It's collaborative, messy, and deeply creative. Here are the core techniques to move from a blank floor to a polished piece.

## 1. Generating Material (The "Spark")

Every devised piece starts with a **stimulus**. This could be a photograph, a news headline, a prop, or a piece of music.

- **Free Writing:** Write for five minutes without stopping based on the stimulus. Don't self-edit; just capture the "stream of consciousness."
- **Brainstorming/Mapping:** Create a visual web of associations. If the stimulus is "Locked Doors," your map might include *secrets, safety, prison, or a forgotten key*.

## 2. Physical Devising

Sometimes words get in the way. Use your body to find the story first.

- **Frantic Assembly's "Hymn Hands":** A touch-based movement sequence where partners create a "dance" of gestures—touching a shoulder, brushing a hand, or shielding the face.
- **Tableaux (Freeze Frames):** Create a still image that captures a moment of high tension.
  - *Pro Tip:* Use **Levels** (high, medium, low) and **Proxemics** (the distance between characters) to tell the story without speaking.
- **Seven Levels of Tension:** Jacques Lecoq's technique ranging from "Exhausted" (Level 1) to "Tragic/Bombshell" (Level 7). Experiment with how a character moves through these levels.

## 3. Character & Narrative Building

Once you have some movement and ideas, you need to "flesh out" the people in your world.

- **Hot Seating:** One person sits in the "hot seat" as their character while the rest of the group asks them questions. This builds deep, "off-text" history.
- **Role-on-the-Wall:** Draw an outline of a person on a large sheet of paper.
  - *Inside the outline:* Write how the character feels about themselves.
  - *Outside the outline:* Write what the world/other characters think of them.
- **Marking the Moment:** Identify the most important beat in a scene and use a dramatic device (like a spotlight, slow motion, or a direct address to the audience) to highlight it

## 4. Structuring the Piece

Devised work doesn't have to be linear. You can play with time and perspective.

Technique	Description
Non-Linear	Events are told out of order (flashbacks/flash-forwards).
Choral Speak	The group speaks lines in unison or fragments to create a "wall of sound."
Physical Theatre	Using the body to represent objects (e.g., three actors becoming a car).
Verbatim	Using the exact words of real people (from interviews or news) as the script.

1. What is a **Stimulus**?
  
2. What are **Levels** in a freeze frame?
  
3. How do you do **Hot Seating**?
  
4. Why should you draw a character "poster" (**Role-on-the-Wall**)?
  
5. What is **Choral Speak**?
  
6. **True or False:** A devised play *must* start at the beginning of the story.
  
7. What does "**Yes, and...**" mean when working in a group?
  
8. How can **Slow Motion** help a scene?
  
9. Name one thing you could use as a **Spark** (Stimulus).
  
10. **Proxemics** is the distance between actors on stage. What does it tell the audience if two actors are standing very far apart?