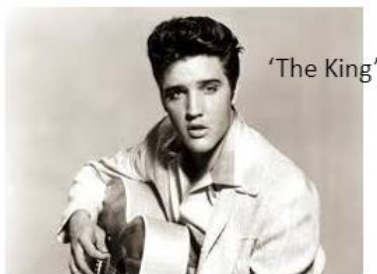




- vocal and instrumental techniques within popular music
- how voices and instruments interact within popular music
- the development of instruments in popular music over time
- the development and impact of technology over time
- the variety and development of styles within popular music over time
- the origins and cultural context of the named genres of popular music
- the typical musical characteristics, conventions and features of the specified genres



Area of Study 5:
Conventions of Pop

1950s / 1960s
Rock 'n' Roll

Derived from Blues and Jazz
Infectious beat or rhythm
Guitar riffs
Moderate to fast tempo
4/4 time signature
Vocal melody and accompaniment
Melodies have a narrow vocal range
Heavy reliance on chord progressions.
Many songs just using chords I IV and V.
Guitars, Bass, Vocals



Buddy Holly



Bill Haley



Chubby Checker



Chuck Berry



The Beach Boys

1970s

Elton John, Eric Clapton, The Carpenters,
Lou Reed, Harry Nilsson, Stevie Wonder,
Carly Simon



- Slow to moderate tempo
- 4/4 time signature
- Romantic lyrics; expressive vocal performance

- Verse/Chorus structure
- Slow harmonic rhythm
- Dynamics usually increase towards the chorus.

1980s

Lionel Richie, Bette Midler, Bonnie Tyler,
Whitney Houston, The Bangles



Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop

Pop Ballads of the 1970s, 1980s & 1990s

1990s

Sinead O'Connor, Bob Dylan, Sting,
The Pretenders, Boyzone, Seal,
Robbie Williams



- How does the voice work with the instruments?
- What are the musical features of the accompaniment?
- Is there an instrumental solo in the piece?
If so, what instrument is playing?

- Describe the music of the solo section
- What is the structure of the piece?
- What is the tempo of the piece?
- How does the texture change?
- Can you identify the chord structure?



Dark, serious **Lyrics**

Instrumentation

- Electric Guitar
- Electric Bass
- Keyboard
- Drum Kit
- Vocals

Riffs

- Guitar solos (improvised)
- Verse – Chorus structure
- Blues influence

A song or piece of music that stirs the listener's emotions and inspires them to join in.
Think about a 'national anthem'



Area of Study 5:
Conventions of Pop

**Rock Anthems
of the
1970s & 1980s**

Electric Guitar – Use of Effects

Distortion/Overdrive

Chorus

Wah-wah

Delay

Vocal Techniques

Melisma

More than one note per syllable

Cross rhythms

Where two conflicting rhythms are heard together

Falsetto

Where male singers produce notes higher than their normal range

Vocalisation

Wordless singing

Portamento

A slide from one note to another



Digital recording allows

Almost limitless **overdubbing** (vocal and instrumental layers easier to achieve than in Reel to Reel and Tape recording from previous decades)

Manipulation of sound (use of more complex effects such as **Vocoding**)

Inclusion of

Sampling

Drum loops

Synthesizers

Artists able to easily fuse different styles. Modern pop can include Rock, Rap, EDM, Latin etc.

Discuss the genre influences and use of instrumentation

Beyonce



Adele

Area of Study 5:
Conventions of Pop

Pop Solo Artists
from 1990s
onwards

Describe / Discuss...

Pitch
Dynamics
Tempo
Rhythm
Metre

Instrumentation
Harmony
Melody
Texture
Tonality

Cher

