

Music Knowledge Organiser

Year 9 Term 1: *THE BLUES*

1	chord	more than one note played at the same time
2	Chord sequence	A series of chords
3	Walking bass	Bass pattern used in blues – walks up/down the chord notes
4	riff	Repeated patterns (popular)
5	Improvisation	Music created 'on the spot'
6	Blues scale	Series of notes used in blues music
7	Call and response	Melodic phrase with response (like a Question and answer)
8	Sharp	Make the note a semitone higher
9	Flat	Make the note a semitone lower
10	Blue notes	Additional sharpened or flattened notes in a melody to add melodic colour

Listen to:

Robert Johnson 'Crossroads'

B.B King 'The Thrill has gone'

Nina Simone 'My Baby Just Cares for Me'



12 Bar blues in C – chord sequence

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

Walking Bass

The notation shows a walking bass line with the following chord symbols: C, G, C, C, F, F, C, C, G, F, C, C.

Self-Quiz Questions	Self-Quiz Questions	Challenge Self-Quiz Quizzing
1. How many notes are in a chord?	1. What does call and response mean?	1. Explain the reason behind many Blues songs and their lyrics.
2. What 3 chords are used in blues music?	2. What did blues singers sing about?	2. After slavery was abolished, Blues songs still existed, why was this?
3. Where did blues music originate?	3. What country did blues music develop?	3. Which genre of "modern" music uses the walking bass?
4. Where would early Blues songs be heard? (in the past)	4. Name a blues composer.	4. <u>TASK</u> : Imagine you are a slave working on a plantation, taken away from your home. Create some lyrics for a song explaining your emotions and feelings (remember the fact about repeating lines).
5. What is the name for the blues bass line?	5. What is improvisation?	5. <u>TASK</u> : Create a fact file about a Blues musician; explain in detail why they sing about the blues and give a brief background of their life.
6. How fast should the blues bass line be?	6. What 'element' of blues used is used for improvisation?	6.
7. Name the genre of music that is very similar to Blues.	7. What was early blues known as?	7.
8. How many bars are in the blues?	8. Which 2 notes are flat (♭) in the walking bass.	8.
9. What instruments would usually accompany a Blues singer?	9. Name a genre of music, other than Jazz, that Blues has influenced.	9.
10. How were work songs passed on to other people?	10. Which 2 lines of lyrics are usually repeated?	10.

