**Topics for exams**

**1. Popular Music Genres**

1) Nearly all of the most important genres of popular music in the last century have come from the USA.

2) This is where African and European musical traditions came together, and it's this mixture of traditions that gave birth to popular music.

**a) Blues**

3) When millions of Africans were transported to America as slaves in the 18th and 19th centuries, their melodies and rhythms went with them.

4) They knew that singing together made working easier, and African rhythms and melodies were preserved until slavery ended in 1865.

5) Many African Americans became Christians and sang hymns in church.

6) Others learned to play popular songs and dance tunes for money.

7) But whenever they sang and played, the African rhythms could be heard.

8) They expressed their feelings by creating new songs and there were African melodies in the tunes.

9) It was this new combination of African and Western music that led to the genre we now call "blues".

10) Some blues songs told stories of heartbreak and pain, and these were often slow and sad.

11) But others were about being in love or having fun.

12) Various blues styles developed over the years, some in small towns of the American south and others in cities like Chicago.

**b) Jazz**

3) Most African American musicians only played blues, but some played classical music as well and learned European harmony.

4) Some even mixed European harmony with the rhythms and scales of blues, and thus "jazz" was born.

5) One of jazz's greatest musicians was the trumpet player Louis Armstrong, who helped to develop many styles of jazz.

6) In the 1920s he was in Chicago inventing new ways of improvising with his band. 7) New styles were played by jazz orchestras with a rhythm section (drums, double bass, piano and guitar), brass and woodwind sections.

8) Swing was hugely popular in the 1940 s, becoming the music that nearly everyone danced to.

9) But by the 1950s many young musicians no longer wanted to play in jazz orchestras.

10) They wanted the freedom to improvise and began experimenting in their own bands.

11) Before long they were playing exciting new styles like bebop and modal jazz. 12) 12) These new styles weren't as easy to dance to as swing, so they weren't as popular, but they found a new audience of serious listeners.

**c) Rhythm and Blues**

3) In the 1930s and 1940s, another new genre was starting to develop.

4) Many African Americans were professional blues musicians, but making money wasn't easy.

5) They formed small bands and looked for work in cheap bars and clubs. But to get work, they had to attract audiences.

6) Most young people who went to these places thought blues was old-fashioned, so the bands had to develop a new style "rhythm and blues" (or R&B\*).

7) The early forms of R&B were loud and lively and mostly played on drums, double bass, and electric guitar.

8) Singers were men or women with big voices, and audiences loved it.

9) The style quickly spread throughout the country, with larger bands adding piano, trumpet and saxophone.

10) R&B was great fun and perfect for dancing, many bands were selling records.

11) The term "R&B" is now used to describe romantic soul songs and ballads,

12) In fact, it is a very different style to the original R&B.

**d) Rock and Roll**

3) By the early 1950 s, another new genre called "rock and roll" was being created by musicians.

4) This new music was played on the same set of instruments as R&B.

5) It was electric guitar, double bass and drums - with the guitarist often singing as well.

6) It had a strong blues beat and an R&B feel, but the melodies were like those of country music.

7) It was great to dance to, and rock and roll dance styles soon developed as well.

8) The lyrics were fun to listen to, and it quickly became popular, especially when teenagers heard rock and roll records on the radio.

9) But rock and roll seemed wild and dangerous to many parents.

10) There was nothing they could do to stop their kids from loving rock and roll and being fans of Elvis, for example.

11) He became hugely successful and made rock and roll one of the most popular styles of music not only in America, but across the world.

12)Elvis Presley had many hit singles and he soon became known as "the king of rock and roll" or simply "the king".

**2. My Future career (примерный образец рассказа)**

1) It’s very difficult to choose the right job.

2) Of course, a job should be profitable, but I also want to enjoy the profession in which I’ll be engaged.

3) I need a creative job, no matter what the profession will be.

4) That’s why I’m going to become a singer (musician/director/music teacher) like my mother (father, aunt, grandmother).

2) Each profession needs special qualities. I love singing (playing the piano/the trumpet/ the guitar).

3) Singing can make me feel good, actually I can't live without singing.

4) My career goals are closely related to music which implies a constant search for new ways of self-development and hard training.

5) To become a professional in this field, it is essential to have not only a good voice and hearing but also other skills.

6) An ability to play one or more musical instruments is very important too.

7) A singer can work independently or with a band.

8) Singers may write their songs or may even sing songs written by others.

9) Professional singers (musicians) go through hard training and have a crystal clear understanding of tone and pitch.

10) I will be ready to start my professional work after some training and coaching to improve voice modulation.

11) Singing is a very competitive field and to come up is extremely difficult.

12) Successful singing builds self-confidence, promotes self-esteem, engages emotions, promotes social inclusion, and supports social skill development.

**List of words:**

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| **Rhythm – ритм****Records - записи****Trumpet - труба****Tune – мелодия****Violin – скрипка****Attract - привлекать****Audience - зрители****Band - оркестр****Director- дирижёр** | **Improvise – импровизировать****Improve - улучшать****Develop -развивать****Create - создавать****Express – выражать****Success - успех****Drums - барабаны****Voice – голос****Pitch – высота (звука)** |