

Knowledge Organiser: Reggae



Topic Background

Reggae originated in the 1960s in Jamaica, Caribbean and is a key genre of popular music. It is heavily influenced by other musical styles, making it a fusion (mixture) of mento, calypso, ska and rock steady. Reggae music is seen as a healer, a comforter, a strength and a source of protest music. Songs are simple, often structured with a repeating verse and chorus. Other key features include:

- slow tempo
- simple structure
- 4/4 timing
- off-beat rhythm

Musical Knowledge

Rhythm Notation



four semi quavers:

1 beat
each semi quaver is a ¼ of a beat
e-ven shor-ter



paired quavers:

1 beat
each quaver is a ½ of a beat
shor-ter



crotchet:

1 beat
short



minim:

2 beats
lo-ong



semibreve:

4 beats
lo-o-o-ong



quaver rest:

1/2 beat rest



crotchet rest:

1 beat rest

Chords



G Major (G,B,D) chord



C Major (C,E,G) chord



F Major (F,A, C) chord

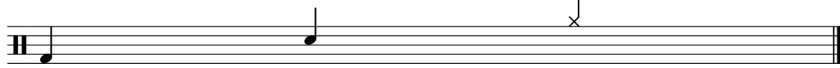
Percussion Notation

natural
clef

kick
drum

snare
drum

hi-hat



Listening Pieces

- Three Little Birds, Bob Marley, 1977
- Rivers of Babylon, The Melodians, 1970
- The Harder They Come, Jimmy Cliff, 1972
- My Number One, Gregory Isaacs, 1984
- Dreamland, Marcia Griffiths, 1978



Instruments



trumpet



keyboard



drum kit



electric
guitar



bass
guitar



saxophone



vocalist

Key Vocabulary

accent: a note or beat that is played louder

accompaniment: a musical part which supports a melody

bass line: lowest part of the music. Creates rhythm and harmony with the chords and adds to the texture of the music

chords: three or more notes played at the same time

clef: a symbol placed at the start of a staff to indicate the pitch of the notes written on it

drum groove: a repeated drum pattern that sets and maintains the rhythm and tempo of the piece

melody: the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches

offbeat: music that is not played on the main beats of the bar

phrasing: indicates where the singer should breathe, connecting or grouping several notes or rhythms to create a sequence of sounds that sound pleasing

riff: a repeated melodic pattern that is recognised as the main part of a song

structure: how a piece is organised

triad: a three-note chord often built from the root note (the lowest in note in pitch of the chord)