



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE – ATAR MUSIC  
MUSIC ANALYSIS**

**A Day in the Life – Questions**

- 1. Who were the two songwriters on *A Day in the Life*?**
  - a) George Harrison & John Lennon
  - b) John Lennon & Paul McCartney
  - c) Paul McCartney & Ringo Starr
  - d) Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein
  
- 2. True or false: A great deal of the lyrics for *A Day in the Life* were taken from the daily newspaper.**
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
- 3. The huge orchestral climax that occurs twice in the song was influenced by what cultural movement?**
  - a) The Renaissance
  - b) American Folk music of the 60's
  - c) The Avant-garde
  - d) The News of the World
  
- 4. The Beatles pushed the available technology of magnetic tape to the limit during the recording of *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. What of the following is NOT a technique of tape manipulation?**
  - a) Looping
  - b) Altering speed and pitch
  - c) Playing backwards
  - d) Sampling
  
- 5. True or false: The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) banned *A Day in the Life* from broadcast.**
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
- 6. True or False: The form of *A Day in the Life* is fairly typical of 60s pop music.**
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
- 7. The transition section is unusual in that it is a chord progression of 5 bars length. What is the most usual phrase structure in pop music?**
  - a) 1 bar
  - b) 3 bars
  - c) 4 bars
  - d) 7 bars

8. True or false: While many pop recordings contain orchestral parts, the orchestral climax in *A Day in the Life* is different to most because it is largely improvised.
- a) True.
  - b) False.
9. The final crashing piano chord is E major, the rest of the song is predominantly minor. (The verses in particular can be seen as in the key of E minor). What technique from the Baroque period does this imitate?
- a) Monody
  - b) Ornamentation
  - c) Basso Continuo
  - d) Tierce de Picardie
10. At the very end of the track, there is some spoken gibberish in a loop. This effect was achieved by:
- a) manipulating magnetic tape
  - b) inputting the sounds into a computer
  - c) the use of a Moog synthesizer
  - d) simply saying the same things over and over

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## A Day in the Life – Answers

- 1. Who were the two songwriters on *A Day in the Life*?**
  - a) George Harrison & John Lennon
  - b) John Lennon & Paul McCartney. Lennon & McCartney wrote most of The Beatles songs
  - c) Paul McCartney & Ringo Starr
  - d) Richard Rogers & Oscar Hammerstein
- 2. True or false: A great deal of the lyrics for *A Day in the Life* were taken from the daily newspaper.**
  - a) True.
  - b) False
- 3. The huge orchestral climax that occurs twice in the song was influenced by what cultural movement?**
  - a) The Renaissance
  - b) American Folk music of the 60's
  - c) The Avant-garde. Paul McCartney was particularly interested in the musical avant-garde, including composers such as Karlheinz Stockhausen and Luciano Berio
  - d) The News of the World
- 4. The Beatles pushed the available technology of magnetic tape to the limit during the recording of *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. What of the following is NOT a technique of tape manipulation?**
  - a) Looping
  - b) Altering speed and pitch
  - c) Playing backwards
  - d) Sampling. Sampling is a product of the digital age. Although tape could 'sample' a sound, it was unable to playback a sound at a different speed without altering the pitch. Digital sampling can do both.
- 5. True or false: The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) banned *A Day in the Life* from broadcast.**
  - a) True. The BBC found the line "I'd love to turn you on" far too racy for broadcast in 1967.
  - b) False
- 6. True or False: The form of *A Day in the Life* is fairly typical of 60s pop music.**
  - a) True
  - b) False. The form of this song goes way beyond a simple verse/chorus structure of most pop songs of the time including early Beatles songs
- 7. The transition section is unusual in that it is a chord progression of 5 bars length. What is the most usual phrase structure in pop music?**
  - a) 1 bar
  - b) 3 bars
  - c) 4 bars. Four bars (and multiples of, such as 8, 16 etc) is the most common.
  - d) 7 bars

**8. True or false: While many pop recordings contain orchestral parts, the orchestral climax in *A Day in the Life* is different to most because it is largely improvised.**

- a) True. The orchestral musicians moved from their lowest note to the highest, in their own time. This created a giant upwards rising 'wash' of sound
- b) False.

**9. The final crashing piano chord is E major, the rest of the song is predominantly minor. (The verses in particular can be seen as in the key of E minor). What technique from the Baroque period does this imitate?**

- a) Monody
- b) Ornamentation
- c) Basso Continuo
- d) Tierce de Picardie. This is the act of resolving a minor piece on a major chord.

**10. At the very end of the track, there is some spoken gibberish in a loop. This effect was achieved by:**

- a) manipulating magnetic tape. The tape was chopped up and put back together randomly, before being made into a loop.
- b) inputting the sounds into a computer
- c) the use of a Moog synthesizer
- d) simply saying the same things over and over