



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE – ATAR MUSIC MUSICAL ANALYSIS

Louis Armstrong 'Background' – Questions

- 1. In which city did jazz begin?**
 - a) New Orleans.
 - b) Chicago.
 - c) New York.
 - d) Los Angeles.

- 2. Whose band did Armstrong join when he first moved to Chicago?**
 - a) Lil Hardin.
 - b) Earl Hines.
 - c) King Oliver.
 - d) Duke Ellington.

- 3. What is the key difference between early New Orleans jazz and the kind of jazz Armstrong pioneered with recordings such as *West End Blues*?**
 - a) Early New Orleans jazz almost always used the 12-bar blues, whereas Armstrong moved away from this harmonic structure when he moved to Chicago.
 - b) Early New Orleans jazz was improvised whereas Armstrong notated the parts for all his band members.
 - c) Early New Orleans jazz always featured a singer, but Armstrong's virtuosity on the trumpet made it OK to record only instrumental jazz tracks.
 - d) Early New Orleans jazz featured group improvisation with solo duties shared amongst all members of the band, whereas Armstrong became jazz's first solo star.

- 4. True or false: Armstrong's Hot Five group always included only five performers in total.**
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 5. Why do we know so little about the origins of jazz?**
 - a) Most of the documents related to early jazz were lost during a flood in New Orleans in 1921.
 - b) Jazz was initially transmitted orally, so there are very few documents of its beginnings.
 - c) The newspaper trade did not exist in New Orleans until the 1920s, so there were no local accounts of early jazz.
 - d) The very earliest recordings of jazz were of such poor quality that it is now impossible to hear many musical details.

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Louis Armstrong 'Background' – Answers

1. In which city did jazz begin?

- a) New Orleans. Correct
- b) Chicago. Incorrect. Although many jazz musicians, including Louis Armstrong, had found their way to Chicago by the 1920s, the music that later became known as jazz had been happening in New Orleans since around 1900.
- c) New York. Incorrect. Although many jazz musicians, including Louis Armstrong, had found their way to New York by the 1920s, the music that later became known as jazz had been happening in New Orleans since around 1900.
- d) Los Angeles. Incorrect

2. Whose band did Armstrong join when he first moved to Chicago?

- a) Lil Hardin. Incorrect. Armstrong did later join her band, but he first moved to Chicago at the invitation of King Oliver.
- b) Earl Hines. Incorrect. Armstrong and Hines made a lot of recordings together, including *West End Blues*, but that was after Armstrong established his own group.
- c) King Oliver. Correct. Oliver was Armstrong's mentor in New Orleans and invited his protégé to join him in Chicago as the second cornet player in King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band.
- d) Duke Ellington. Incorrect. The correct answer is King Oliver.

3. What is the key difference between early New Orleans jazz and the kind of jazz Armstrong pioneered with recordings such as *West End Blues*?

- a) Early New Orleans jazz almost always used the 12-bar blues, whereas Armstrong moved away from this harmonic structure when he moved to Chicago. Incorrect. There has always been a strong link between jazz and the blues, including the use of the 12-bar blues harmonic structure.
- b) Early New Orleans jazz was improvised whereas Armstrong notated the parts for all his band members. Incorrect. Armstrong and all the musicians in his Hot Five and Hot Seven groups were virtuosic improvisers.
- c) Early New Orleans jazz always featured a singer, but Armstrong's virtuosity on the trumpet made it OK to record only instrumental jazz tracks. Incorrect.
- d) Early New Orleans jazz featured group improvisation with solo duties shared amongst all members of the band, whereas Armstrong became jazz's first solo star. Correct.

4. True or false: Armstrong's Hot Five group always included only five performers in total.

- a) True. Incorrect. There was evidently flexibility in the numerical makeup of the group. *West End Blues* features a group of six musicians.
- b) False. Correct. *West End Blues* features a group of six musicians.

5. Why do we know so little about the origins of jazz?

- a) Most of the documents related to early jazz were lost during a flood in New Orleans in 1921. Incorrect. Because jazz was initially transmitted orally, there were very few documents of its beginnings.
- b) Jazz was initially transmitted orally, so there are very few documents of its beginnings. True.
- c) The newspaper trade did not exist in New Orleans until the 1920s, so there were no local accounts of early jazz. Incorrect. Because jazz was initially transmitted orally, there were very few documents of its beginnings.
- d) The very earliest recordings of jazz were of such poor quality that it is now impossible to hear many musical details. Incorrect. There were no recordings of jazz until 1917.