

GCSE MUSIC REVISION NOTES FOR AOS 3

POPULAR MUSIC IN CONTEXT

DANCE MUSIC

The roots of club dance music began in the 1970s with funk, disco, European synth-pop and hip-hop. These styles were fused to become the house music of Chicago.

The technology used by musicians, producers and DJs played a huge role in the development of dance music. The use of samplers and vocoders, together with scratching was very common in most dance styles and you must be familiar how these devices/techniques can manipulate sounds.

SONGS FROM MUSICALS

Common types of songs featured in musicals include solos, duets, choruses. There are two main song formats: action songs which move the plot forward and character songs which enable a character to express their feelings.

Song structures follow a simple verse/chorus format, usually with a middle eight. Most commonly, symmetrical 8-bar phrases are used.

BRITPOP AND ITS INFLUENCES

Britpop was a nostalgic movement looking back to the heyday of British pop music in the 1960s and was heavily influenced by bands such as The Beatles, The Kinks, The Who.

One of the main defining characteristics of Britpop music is the guitar-driven band with little use of technology. Song structure was fairly simple consisting of verses, a chorus and a middle eight, each of these following a traditional chord sequence, strong melodic vocal lines and even direct references to the bands of the 1960s.

In the mid-1990s, Britpop was part of a backlash against dance music and American pop music which had been dominating the charts for some time.