

## Music GCSE – AOS 4

### **AFRICAN DRUMMING**

Main features: Ostinato; polyrhythms; cross rhythms; syncopation; contrasts in timbre (pitch of different sized drums, variety of playing techniques e.g. sticks (against skin and side of drum): hands (slap, bass, tone). Instruments: Talking Drum (Dun Dun); Djembes of various sizes; anvils/cowbells/metallic percussion. Importance of the role of Master Drummer in controlling the performance; rhythmic cueing; Improvisation; Oral tradition (not notated); often combined with song/chants; used for tribal occasions, worship, social occasions; contrasts may be in timbre, tempo, dynamics, texture.

### **INDIAN RAGA**

“Raga” or “Rag” – the style/genre of music AND the scale used as the basis of each piece. Many different ragas exist, often created to represent a particular mood, season, event or time of day; the raga is then used as basis for improvisation. Instruments: Sitar, Sarod – Melody; Tambura/Tanpura – Drone accompaniment; Tabla – pair of hand drums that play the “tala” (rhythmic cycle) and also improvise. Although the raga may be notated, the music is largely improvised within a set structure (Alap – gradual introduction, exploring the notes of the rag; Jor – steady pulse established; Jhala – fast climax)

### **MUSIC COMBINING AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT CULTURES**

Bhangra – combines elements of Indian raga with western pop music; exam questions will ask about influences of each culture e.g instrumentation/vocals (language), structure, amplification, technology, structure. Links with Bollywood film industry, flamboyant dancing.

Salsa and Folk Rock may also appear on the exam paper – focus on the main musical elements in your answers.