

Reading and Use of English Paper Part 5 – Multiple choice:
Music

Overview: Students practise summarising main ideas, then complete a Part 5 exam task.

Part of Exam: Reading and Use of English (Paper 1) Part 5

Language / Skill Practised: summarising main ideas

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student.

Time: 50 to 60 minutes, plus extension

Procedure:**Part One: Warmer – Summarising main ideas**

1. Give out the worksheet to students. Give students a few minutes to discuss the questions in pairs. When students have finished, take whole-class feedback.
2. As a whole class, identify the 'BIG' question in the first paragraph. Tell students to brainstorm positive and negative responses to this question. They can then work in pairs and have a mini debate, with one student arguing in favour of classical music and one arguing against. Give students a few minutes to discuss their ideas. Monitor as they discuss, making a note of any language or pronunciation problems for correction at the end. When they have finished, take whole-class feedback. Ask students to justify their answers.
3. Tell students to read through posts A and B once, to get an idea of what the paragraphs are about. Tell them to summarise the main message of each post. They should try to do this in one sentence for each post. There is no one correct summary of the posts, but students should try to capture the main idea in their sentences. Point out that in the exam, they may want to write a summary sentence next to each paragraph of the reading passage, to help them locate main ideas. Ask for volunteers to read out some their summary statements to the class. In general, Musicman3 is against classical music and Screenmonkey is in favour of classical music.

Part Two: Exam practice

4. Tell students to look at the questions 1–6 and the options A–D. Go through any vocabulary they do not understand. Tell students to underline the main ideas in the question stems. Tell students to work on their own and choose the best answers. When they have finished, they can check their answers in pairs and make any corrections as necessary. Go through the answers as a whole class. Ask students to try to explain why each answer is correct.

Key:

1 C 2 B 3 D 4 B 5 C 6 A

Part Three: Extension

5. Tell students to work in groups and discuss their opinions about classical music. When they have finished, take whole-class feedback. You could end with a vote on whether pop music or classical music is their favourite.

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1 Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you enjoy classical music? What do you (not) like about it?
- 2 Have you been to or would you like to go to a classical music concert? Why / why not?
- 3 What is your favourite piece of classical music? Can you hum it?
- 4 How many classical music composers can you name?

2 Read the first paragraph of an online article about attitudes to classical music. Work in pairs. Look at the BIG question mentioned in the first line. Imagine one person has answered YES to the question, while another person has answered NO. What do you think these people might say?

MUSIC FOR EVERYONE**The classical question**

Today, on *Music in the 21st Century*, we're asking all of you a BIG question: Do you think that classical music is relevant to young people in the 21st century? It's a question that has provoked heated debate in music magazines and on music websites recently, so we would like to know what our readers think. We already know that music is important to you as a visitor to this site, but do you ever listen to classical music? Do you think it's stuffy and old-fashioned? Is it only the older generation that still enjoys it? Or are you a classical music fan, who gets a lot out of listening to it? Whether your preference is Lady Gaga or Mozart, we want to hear from you. Get posting!

A musicman3

I get the feeling that classical music is stuck in the past, and has no real relevance to today's youth. And it's not as though I haven't tried listening to it. I have, several times, but it was just boring, and I didn't know what I was listening for. That's the real problem, I think. Maybe it means something to some people, but you have to learn what to listen for, and for me, that's not on. I like my music to talk straight to me! Also, these days, kids want to interact with the music – dance, sing along, tap their feet and stuff. Don't tell me you can do that with classical music! And now you've got me started, what's all that about the rules you have to follow at classical concerts? First off, you have to wear special posh gear, and then you can't applaud when you want to, you have to sit in silence (in my case, bored to tears), and then clap when you're allowed to. How snobby is that! That's the word that sums it all up for me. It's as if the people who are into classical music are all rich or upper-class with a good, expensive education. It's like a club that I don't belong to. And I don't particularly want to join either! So, no, as far as I'm concerned, pop music is for today's young people. It's about today, not yesterday, and deals with our issues and feelings. Classical music is dead music. It says nothing to me at all.

B screenmonkey

How anyone can think that classical music isn't important to young people is beyond me. Many people in my generation are really into it. I mean, we're talking about music that has been created by geniuses and has stood the test of time. It's magical, emotional and beautiful. There aren't enough adjectives for me to describe it! OK, it's not easy or catchy like most of today's music, but I think that's a good thing. It's exciting and challenging, and that's probably why people think it's not important anymore. They don't really understand it. To appreciate classical music, you have to be patient, and that's not a quality that a lot of people have today! Classical music is not about jumping around to a beat, it's about listening quietly, and following the journey the music takes you on. Some people say that it's elitist and only enjoyed by a small group of privileged people. Rubbish! It just needs to be



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marketed and presented in a better way, so that young people everywhere can learn how wonderful classical music really is. [577 words]

Worksheet

3 Read posts A and B. Did they mention any of your ideas from Exercise 2? Write a one-sentence summary of each poster's opinion.

Tip! You can write a summary sentence next to each paragraph on the exam paper. This will help you locate the main ideas of the text when you are looking for an answer.

4 Read the article again. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

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|---|---|
| <p>1 In the first paragraph, we learn that ...</p> <p>A ... this is the most important question the website has asked.</p> <p>B ... most of the website's users are young.</p> <p>C ... this question has been a topic of discussion recently.</p> <p>D ... few young people listen to classical music.</p> | <p>4 A summary of Musicman3's attitude towards classical music is that ...</p> <p>A ... it is more fun to play it than listen to it.</p> <p>B ... it is completely irrelevant to him.</p> <p>C ... he wishes he had a better understanding of it.</p> <p>D ... it is good at expressing emotions.</p> |
| <p>2 In the first paragraph, what is 'gets a lot out of' most likely to mean?</p> <p>A spends a lot of money on</p> <p>B gets pleasure from</p> <p>C spends a lot of time on</p> <p>D gets bored of</p> | <p>5 According to Screenmonkey, classical music ...</p> <p>A ... is more popular than pop music among young people.</p> <p>B ... is music that stays with you after you have listened to it.</p> <p>C ... is high-quality music and that is why it still exists.</p> <p>D ... has been underappreciated for many years.</p> |
| <p>3 Musicman3's first criticism of classical music is that ...</p> <p>A ... it is too expensive for young people to watch or buy.</p> <p>B ... it tells stories about the present, not the past.</p> <p>C ... it is too slow.</p> <p>D ... you have to know how to interpret it.</p> | <p>6 In order to appreciate classical music, Screenmonkey says ...</p> <p>A ... you need to have the time to enjoy it.</p> <p>B ... it is best to see a live music performance.</p> <p>C ... you may need to travel to see an orchestra.</p> <p>D ... you need to spend a lot of money on it.</p> |

5 Work in small groups. Discuss your personal reactions to the question and the posts.