

Practice questions: The History of Music Technology

Taken from: <http://musictechstudent.co.uk/music-technology/a2-music-tech-exam-unit-4-essay-question-the-history-of-music-technology/>

General Music Technology History and Development:

- Discuss the developments of music technology during the 21st century
- Describe how Recording and Distribution has changed over the last 50 years
- The development of electronic musical instruments
- Describe how social media has changed the face of the music industry?
- Describe the history and development of Djing, Turntables and live music technology
- The history and development of popular music (Albums and artists that changed the world)

Microphones:

- Describe the history and development of the microphone
- Describe how a microphone works?

Synthesis:

- Describe the history and effect of synthesizers on modern popular music since 1970
- Describe the components of a synthesizer and the influence that they have on shaping a sound / wave form?
- Explain what is meant by modelling synthesis and describe its effect on modern music since 1990

Sampling and Drum Machines:

- Discuss the development of samplers and how they shaped the direction of popular Music in the 80's.
- Describe the development of the drum machine and its influence on modern music genres.

The Electric Guitar:

- Describe the development of electric guitar effects from the 1960s
- Describe the components of an electric guitar and how the electric guitar has developed and matured since the 1950s.
- Describe the development of the Amplifier and the effect it has had on modern popular music.

Effects and Processing:

- Describe the development of reverb. Give examples of the various kinds of reverb units and how they work.
- Describe the development of delay and its influence on popular music since its introduction.
- Describe the development of modulation effects and their influence on popular music since their introduction.
- Describe the history and development of the flanger effect
- Describe the development of distortion effects and their influence on popular music since their introduction
- Describe the development of Dynamic Processing on popular music since its introduction
- Describe the history and development of auto-tune
- Describe the impact that the Wah-wah effect had on modern popular music

Recording and Mixing:

- Describe the influence of multi-track recording from the 1950s
- How has the development of Computer Technology affected the way we record and produce music?
- Describe how the mixing process has changed over the past 70 years

MIDI and Computer Technology:

- Describe the history and development of MIDI
- Describe the influence and importance of midi and virtual instruments in modern studios?
- Describe the Development of The Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) from the 1980s

Mastering:

- Describe the process and purpose of mastering
- Describe the history and impact that the loudness wars have had on modern popular music