

MODEL ANSWERS

1. From lines 5-8, identify two places where Milton made public appearances. (2 marks)

1. He made a public appearance in Leland.
2. He made a public appearance in Nelson street.

2. Give one example from lines 9-12 of how the writer uses language to show the style of Milton's records.

Example from the text: (1 mark)

"They were a heady brew of shameless imitation and lawless bravado."

How the writer uses language: (1 mark)

The writer uses the metaphor "brew" to describe Milton's records as being an obvious copy of BB King's musical style and "Little" Milton Campbell's dramatic performance style.

3. Analyse how the writer uses language and structure to interest and engage the reader. Support your views with detailed reference to the text. (15 marks)

The writer effectively uses **structure** to interest and engage us as readers in the life of "Little" Milton Campbell. The **opening** of the obituary informs us that Campbell "became a spokesman... for the entire African-American community." The writer structurally engages and captivates our attention from the opening of the extract as we realise Campbell was more than just an entertainer – he was an advocate and supporter of America's African-American community. This thus makes the **ending** of the extract all the more tragic as we learn he had "two strokes last month..." This ending interests and engages readers as we learn his death is a significant loss – not just for his family but for the blues music community as well as USA's African-American community.

Secondly, Tony Russell interests and engages us as readers through effectively using **language and dialogue** to vividly depict Campbell's personality. The author quotes his interview, where Campbell stated that "in order to be successful... you have to be versatile." The **adjective** "versatile" coupled with the use of dialogue makes us interested and engaged as readers. Campbell is shown to be wise and inspirational as he shares that one of the reasons he remained so successful is because he was able to adapt as a musical artist and produce R&B music as well as blues music.

Finally, the writer successfully uses **language** to interest and engage the reader as he uses **proper nouns** to allude to the different recording companies Campbell worked with during his career. Readers learn that Campbell was signed at "East St Louis," "Chess Label," "Stax Records" and "Malaco." Readers will find these **proper nouns** intriguing as they illustrate all

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the important record labels Campbell worked with when his career was growing and developing. These record labels also add a specific historical element to his life's path as it makes readers understand his musical pedigree clearer as well as the record labels that existed at the time and contributed to the growth of blues as a genre.

4. From lines 1–5, identify one thing we are told about Bessie's voice. (1 mark)

One thing we are told about Bessie's voice is her "tones boomed out" and could be heard from far away.

5. *She was tall and brown-skinned, with great big dimples creasing her cheeks, dripping good looks...*

In this example, from lines 9–10, how does the writer use language to show Bessie's appearance? (1 mark)

The writer uses adjectives including "tall" and alliteration including "creasing... cheeks" to show Bessie's beautiful appearance.

6. In this extract, the writer attempts to show his admiration for Bessie Smith. Evaluate how successfully this is achieved. Support your views with detailed reference to the text. (15 marks)

In the extract, the writer successfully shows his intense admiration for Bessie Smith through using language and structure to illustrate how captivating and entertaining her music was. In the opening of the extract, the writer recalls she was "putting away *Young Woman Blues*, one of the greatest numbers, when we eased in..." The writer effectively uses hyperbole when he refers to her "greatest numbers" and ellipsis to successfully show just how much he admired Bessie Smith. It is evident that he believed she was a unique and talented singer as well as performer as her performance was etched into his memory long after the event was over.

Moreover, the writer uses language to successfully convey his admiration for Bessie Smith's performance style. He was enchanted with her powerful presence on stage as "she never needed any twirls and twitches... she just stood there and sang." The writer's use of alliteration when he refers to "twirls and twitches" shows Bessie Smith did not need to engage in any dramatic performances or dances. The sibilance "stood" and "sang" illustrates her singing was so powerful and enchanting, her audience was simply captivated when they heard her voice. Hence the writer successfully shows how much he admired Bessie Smith's onstage presence which he found captivating and alluring.

In addition, the writer uses structure to successfully show how much he admired Bessie Smith's unique qualities as a singer. She stood out to Mezz Mezzrow as "her style was so individual that nobody else ever grasped it." The writer uses this compound sentence to reveal how talented and gifted Bessie Smith was. It is clear that her musical gift as well as her

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style of performance was completely different to anything the writer had ever seen before. We can see the writer admired Bessie Smith and even seemed inspired by her musical skills and prowess. Thus he successfully shows his admiration for her to readers.

7. (a) The two texts show singers who are memorable.

What similarities do Milton and Bessie share in these extracts? Use evidence from both texts to support your answer. (6 marks)

Firstly, both Milton and Bessie do not appear to have any formal training in music. Indeed, they were naturally talented. In Text 1, we learn Milton's "vocals were blatantly modelled on King" and in Text 2, we discover Bessie "never practised her scales." It is evident that they were simply naturally talented and they adapted their musical styles to their environments – yet they never received much formal education in music.

Secondly, both Milton and Bessie had extremely unique musical styles that made them stand out. In Text 1, we discover that "Milton's guitar playing was decidedly original" and in Text 2 we learn that Bessie's singing "wasn't a voice.... it was a flame thrower..." It is evident that they are both memorable as they had unique and powerful musical styles that distinguished their performance from many musicians at the time.

7. (b) Compare how the writers of Text 1 and Text 2 present ideas and perspectives about singers. Support your answer with detailed references to the texts. (14 marks)

The writers of Text 1 and Text 2 present similar as well as different ideas and perspectives about singers through using a range of language and literary techniques. It is evident that both Texts appear to admire the innate, in-born talent that Milton and Bessie have – especially as they both never had much formal training in music. Both singers developed their careers in a society that seemed to discriminate against them, thus both Texts admire how the singers thrived in spite of this. Yet Text 1 uses the figure of Milton to illustrate how an entertainer can clearly represent an entire community, whilst in Text 2, Bessie appears to be a unique example of just one woman who was talented yet she remained largely unrecognised by society as a whole.

Firstly, both writers show how Bessie and Milton developed their talents in obscurity. It seems like Text 1 and Text 2 have an admiration for the singers precisely because they had little formal musical training and they instead developed their skills by performing in obscure clubs and locations. In Text 1, the authors uses a complex sentence to reveal to readers that Milton's "singing and playing guitar, were in the clubs of Leland and... Nelson Street." Similarly, in Text 2, the writer uses listing to refer to "that café, cats and their kittens blocked up the side-walk..." It is evident that both writers share a similar idea and perspective that Milton and Bessie were able to truly hone their talents and skills in obscure, unknown clubs as well as cafes, making their music all the more powerful and authentic for their listeners.

Secondly, both Text 1 and Text 2 express admiration over the fact that both singers performed in a time when society greatly discriminated against them. In Text 1, the writer

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uses sibilance to mention how Milton was a “spokesman” for African-Americans through “soul music.” Similarly, the author of Text 2 makes reference to Bessie’s race by using the adjective “brown-skinned” as well as the rule of three to refer to how she was “voluptuous, buxom and massive.” It is evident that both Texts share similar ideas and perspectives when it comes to the admiration they had for both singers – who appeared to be resilient as they used their music as a way to overcome the overwhelming racism they faced during their time. Both Text 1 and Text 2 reveal that the singers were pioneers as they were able to use their music as a way to fight oppression.

Nevertheless, the texts appear to diverge when they reflect on the impact and legacy of both singers. It seems in Text 1, Milton was versatile and his ability to fluidly shift between genres made him a powerful symbol for the entire African-American community. However in Text 2, the writer reveals Bessie’s talents as confined to her own individual background and lived experiences. Text 2 seems enamoured by how beautifully she expresses her own personal experiences in her music. However Text 1 sees Milton’s music as having a wider impact on society. In Text 1, the author uses the proper noun “African-American community” as well as the common noun “younger artists” to show the widespread impact Milton had on helping African-Americans as well as young, aspirational performers. Yet in Text 2, the author uses the compound sentence, “she lived every song she sang; she was just telling you...” to illustrate Bessie’s music as confined to narrating her individual experiences as a “brown-skinned” woman. The writers’ ideas and perspectives about singers markedly diverge. This is because in Text 1, it is clear that the author places a huge value on Milton, in part due to the huge impact his music had on society. Nonetheless in Text 2, the author is impressed by how beautifully Bessie is able to convey her personal experiences through her music.

To conclude, both writers in Text 1 and Text 2 present similar as well as different ideas and perspectives about singers through using a range of language and literary techniques. It is evident that both Texts appear to admire Milton and Bessie’s talents as singers. Milton and Bessie developed their careers in a society that seemed pitted against them, thus both Texts admire how the singers thrived in spite of this. Yet Text 1 uses the figure of Milton to show how a performer can help a community, whilst in Text 2, Bessie appears to be an alluring example of one woman who was talented in narrating her own experiences through music.

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8. Write an article for a newspaper with the title ‘How Music Affects People’.

You could write about:

- **what types of music people listen to**
- **where people listen to music**
- **how music makes people feel**
- **as well as any other ideas you might have**

(40 marks)

How Music Affects People

It may have lifted you out of despair. It may have pushed you to finish off that boring chore. It may remind you of the time you met your best friend. Music has affected you in a million ways. Music is a powerful trigger. It can motivate and inspire us all in many ways. Music affects everyone from all walks of life and different genres play a powerful role in bringing us all together as a community, making us as individuals happy and even reminding us of amazing, life-changing, nostalgic memories.

Music profoundly affects people:

There are countless songs which are released every day. This is a clear indicator of how important music is to millions and millions of people. There are a plethora of genres of music, including rap, jazz, rock, techno and classical music. We turn to each of these genres when we are in specific moods and they all aid us in different ways. Want to feel pumped up before a workout? Maybe dance music may help. Stressed out with a last minute essay and need some helpful background music? Maybe classical music may boost your motivation. Want to have a mellow evening before you go to bed? Try listening to the chilled out vibes that jazz music has to offer. Although people tend to be drawn to certain genres, we all tend to listen to different types of music to suit our moods and desires. According to Cambridge University, the music 85% of people listen to at any point reflects how they are feeling. More significantly, 55% of people in this study reported that music even affects their mood. If they are happy and they listen to mellow or sad songs, their mood tends to gradually dampen and grow less optimistic.

Where do we listen to music?

Music is everywhere. Sometimes we listen to music without choosing to do so. Other times, we deliberately pick the environment so that we can set the tone right. Have you ever walked into a busy Starbucks cafe in Central London? Chances are you will find yourself listening to ambient music. Although shops, cafes and gyms do not give us a choice over the songs we hear or the playlist that's chosen, there are many instances where we go out of our way to ensure we are in environments where there is lots of music. Think of festivals, concerts and parties. There are many musical festivals such as Glastonbury Festival, Reading Festival and Wireless Festival, which are extremely popular places where people go to enjoy dancing, singing and listening to music. Whilst we also listen to songs and tunes in the comfort of our own homes, we also listen to thumping, screaming music blaring from sound systems at

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festivals as this puts us into contact with our friends. Anna Smith, an 18 year old student who attends Leeds University said it was parties and concerts where she met new people and formed close bonds with friends. Music is great when enjoyed alone. Yet it is better when enjoyed with friends and family. We gravitate to parties, festivals and concerts as music brings us closer to those we love and enjoy spending time with.

How music makes us feel:

Music is powerful. It can significantly influence how we feel. It can even push us to heights we have never reached before. I know that if I am exercising with my headphones on, I feel far more motivated to push myself when I'm listening to the crooning voice of Mariah Carey, Beyonce and Adele. I have had my best workouts when listening to music. Music usually makes us feel great – especially if it is positive and upbeat. Moreover when on a long journey or a boring commute, listening to music makes the journey feel shorter. That being said, there have been people who state that music can also have a dark, destructive side. Violent rap and drill music has often been linked to stabbings and killings. Although this illustrates that music can affect some people's mindsets, this is more a cautionary tale of how critical it is to watch what we listen to. All music has a message. We should do our best to listen to songs that have a happy outcome as well as inspirational music that makes us work harder and do better.

Music affects people. According to Sony Records, 1000 new songs are created in Britain every single day. This shows how important music is for many of us. It affects us all – whether we realise it or not. Music has the power to trigger beautiful, nostalgic memories. Yet it can also bring up darker, violent feelings. We must try our best to watch what we listen to. However this should not stop us from celebrating the beautiful diversity of songs and tunes around us.