**Subpart 1**

**Read the passages and answer the questions that follow.**

# Passage 1 Ragtime Music

1. Ragtime is a style of American music that was popular between 1897 and 1918. It began in African American communities in the late 1800s and quickly spread throughout the United States.
2. Ragtime is like a march, but it is a little different. It has a different rhythm that is described as off-beat. The rhythm came from African American work songs, gospel tunes, and dance. It is lively and fun, which makes it perfect for dancing. Two things that helped create ragtime were a certain style of piano playing that was similar to playing the drums and also fiddle music and dances such as Irish jigs.
3. Scott Joplin has been called “the king of ragtime.” He composed, or wrote, ragtime music. As with classical music, Joplin’s songs were written down exactly; they were meant to be played as they were written. But later on, people used his work to make up their own rhythms. This is how jazz, another type of music, was later created. Joplin wrote two of ragtime’s best-known and popular pieces: “The Entertainer” and “The Maple Leaf Rag.” He wrote almost 50 ragtime pieces during his lifetime.
4. Ragtime became less popular as jazz started to claim the public’s attention in 1917. However, there have been many revivals, or regaining of interest, of ragtime through the years. In the 1940s various jazz bands recorded some ragtime music. Later, in the 1950s, a variety of past ragtime styles were made available on records. New songs were composed, published, and recorded as well. Scott Joplin’s music enjoyed a revival as late as the 1970s because of a popular movie called *The Sting*. The movie had the ragtime song “The Entertainer” as its theme song.

**BENCHMARK TEST 1**

# Passage 2

**The Life of Scott Joplin**

1. Scott Joplin was born in 1867 or 1868 in northeast Texas. The second of six children, Scott learned to love music early in life. Both of his parents were musically talented. They made sure he learned to play the guitar, piano, and cornet. The piano was his favorite, though.
2. A professor of music, Julius Weiss, recognized Scott’s talent and gave him free music lessons for five years. Weiss taught Scott classical and folk music. He even taught him about opera and ballet. He taught him that music is not only for entertainment; it is also art.
3. When he was about seventeen, Scott left home to become a traveling musician. He traveled around the southern states of America playing in dance halls. Ragtime music was becoming very popular at that time.
4. When he was about thirty years old, he finally settled down in Sedalia, Missouri, and worked as a piano teacher. He also started writing and publishing his music. His most famous piece of music, which eventually sold millions of copies, was “The Maple Leaf Rag.”
5. This was the same year that he married Belle Jones. They moved to St. Louis soon after. He had written an opera, called *A Guest of Honor*. It was performed, but they ran out of money. The manuscript to the opera disappeared. That was a hard year. He and Belle had a baby, but the baby died, and their marriage ended.
6. Joplin did not give in to despair. He wrote a second opera called *Treemonisha*. He moved to New York in 1907, hoping to find a producer for the opera. He performed very successfully in New York and he married Lottie Stokes. He and Lottie published music together. These were all good things. But the pay was low, and the opera didn’t work out the way he wanted. There wasn’t much money available to stage it, and it was not popular. This broke his heart.
7. He knew he was getting sick and worked harder than ever to complete his work. He died in 1917 at the age of forty-eight from a disease that is easily treated today with antibiotics. In terms of musical history, the death of Scott Joplin marks the end of the ragtime era.

Student Name

**Writing Prompt**

You have just read two passages about ragtime music. Write a narrative essay in which a character finds out that an ancestor was a ragtime musician/composer and decides to start a ragtime band. Be sure to use details from **both** passages in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

* + Plan your essay and do some prewriting in the space provided in your test booklet.
  + Write your narrative on the lined pages of your answer document. Be sure to
  + Write a narrative essay.
  + Use evidence from **both** passages.

Write your essay on the lined pages of the answer document. **Anything you write that is not on the lined pages will not be scored.**

Student Name

**1** “Ragtime became less popular as jazz started to claim the public’s attention in 1917.” (paragraph 4 of passage 1) What does claim mean in this sentence?

1. say that something is true
2. fight for
3. say that something is yours
4. attract

**2** The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

## Part A

Which of these sentences **best** describes the role that ragtime played in musical history?

**M.** Ragtime was brought to America from Africa.

**P.** Ragtime is a musical style created by Scott Joplin.

1. Ragtime helped folk music evolve into jazz.
2. Ragtime is similar to classical music, but it changed into jazz later.

## Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

1. “This is how jazz, another type of music, was later created.”
2. “Ragtime became less popular in 1917, as jazz started to claim the public’s attention.”
3. “It began in African American communities in the late 1800s.”
4. “As with classical music, Joplin’s songs were written down exactly.”

## Test 1 Answer Key Student Name:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** |  | **Content Focus** |  | **Complexity** |
| **Subpart 1** |  |  |  |  |
| **1** | D | Woird Relationships | 4..RLCS.4 | DOK 2 |
| 2A | R | Cause and Effect | 4.RLKID..3 | DOK 2 |
| **2B** | **A** | Cause and Effect | 4.RLKID..3 | DOK 2 |

**Test 1 Rationales**

**1**

**A** is incorrect Music cannot spealk.

**B** is incorrect. Music cannot fight.

,c is incorrect Music cannot spealk.

**D** is correct Music can attract attention.

**2A**

**M** is incorrect. Ragtime began in African American communities.

**P** is incorirect. Joplin was a gireat ragtime artist but he did not invent the genre.

**R** is correct It was only in vogue for 20 years and then it evolved into jazz.

**S** is incorrect Ragtime is not similar to classical music..The way people write it on papeir is similar.

**2B**

**A** is correct. This shows that ragtime evolved into jazz.

**B** is incorrect. This does not show a relationship between jazz and ragtime, only that jazz came next.

C is incorrect While this sentence describes its roots, it does not describe the importance ragtime had in musical history.

**D** is incorrect. This tallks about the writing system, but it doesn't show the role that ragtime played in musical history..