

S4.3 WORK, LEISURE and CELEBRATIONS

S4.3.5 - Let's explore what a popular pastime music has always been with Maltese people.

A. Read and then answer the questions.



Maltese people, like every other people all over the world, express a lot of their feelings through music. One can find rhymes, some of them very old, relating jokes, funny incidents or serious topics. Well, practically everything through musical notes. All forms of musical instruments are used.

In the past, guitars were used along with the friction drum known as 'żafżafa', Maltese bagpipes known as 'iż-żaqq' and the tambourine. Today we use the piano, orchestra, local bands or modern band groups. There is no doubt that today, music has become more popular, not only amongst those who listen to it but also amongst those who actively take part in creating it. The number of youths who learn how to play a musical instrument has increased. The opportunities for learning to play a musical instrument have also increased.

A folk song which hardly makes sense, but which people have always enjoyed singing is 'LANĊA ĠEJJA U OĦRA SEJRA' (One boat arrives and another one leaves). Let us sing:

<http://youtu.be/nceFYhidm8Q>

These songs, and many others like them, are songs to while away the time, that is, they are pastimes. After all, what's so wrong about singing a song like this to relax a bit!



Tick the correct answer:

1. Normally, Maltese folk music is accompanied by:
 - a) a guitar.
 - b) a children's choir.
 - c) the church choir.

2. Maltese youths have the opportunity to learn musical instruments
 - a) if they listen to the radio.
 - b) if they watch a lot of television.
 - c) if they go to music lessons at a local band club.

3. In Maltese feasts one always finds
 - a) foreign singers.
 - b) Maltese bands.
 - c) guitarists.

4. The festival watched by nearly all Maltese people nowadays is
 - a) the Eurovision.
 - b) A to Z of Music.
 - c) the spring song competition.

5. If you want to take voice classes, you can
 - a) join a local band club.
 - b) take part in a radio quiz.
 - c) join a choir.



6. Music

- a) is not worth anything, but is just a waste of time.
- b) is part of Maltese culture.
- c) does not exist in Malta.