

Study Questions for Swing Test

1. Who wrote many famous tunes with his band mates including; "It Don't Mean A Thing", "Sophisticated Lady", "Satin Doll", "Mood Indigo", "Don't Get Around Much Anymore", "Cotton Tail", "In A Mellow Tone", "Perdido", "Caravan" and "Take The A Train"?
2. Who was the leader of the most popular big band of the 30's and 40's? He was an unlikely star, a white, Jewish, domineering clarinet player.
3. Who is considered the most prodigious and prolific composer in the history of jazz? His band never fell into any one category and the sounds he was able to coax from his players were always unique.
4. She had a career that spanned almost 60 years and she achieved spectacular success in bringing jazz into mainstream American culture and was rightly dubbed the "First Lady of Song."
5. Who was born in a horse-drawn wooden carriage in Belgium in 1910 and grows to become the greatest guitarist of the swing era?
6. He single handedly brought popularity to the tenor saxophone an instrument that was earlier considered a novelty. "He's the person who woke you up and let you there was a tenor saxophone," said Lester Young.
7. Less equals more tells you everything you need to know about the kid from Red Bank, NJ. While other pianists spread notes all over the keyboard, he was a minimalist, a certain chord here, a few well chosen notes there, a short melodic phrase from the right hand, a quiet stab from the left hand, was all he required to stamp his mark on his surroundings.
8. Who is known as the first rhythm section to consistently swing in a smooth relaxed way exuding an excellent and solid sense of tempo, a consistent and never forced rhythmic swing and an emphasis on buoyancy rather than intensity?
9. A pork-pie hat on his head, a tenor held at an obtuse angle to his right, a strange way of talking and a totally individual way of playing, he was the bohemian high priest of hip. Whereas Coleman Hawkins was cocksure, full-toned and full of bravado, _____ was cool, light toned, and laid-back.
10. Increasingly in the forties the new musician wanted to be seen as an "entertainer" not an "artist"
11. Who was the finest, fastest drummer of the swing era and the pulse that powered Count Basie's All American Rhythm Section?
12. This drummer is known for the way he played quieter and sometimes completely omitted the bass drum. He is also known for creating the technique where he sustained the pulse on the cymbals. (These innovations created the trademark sound that jazz drummers still use today).
13. These recordings of the Count Basie (the "All American") Rhythm Section become the model for the succeeding generation, the Bop era.