



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE – ATAR MUSIC
MUSIC ANALYSIS**

The Shirelles 'Background' – Questions

- 1. Which of the following is not a characteristic of girl groups?**
 - a) They typically sing songs written by professional songwriters
 - b) They typically sing songs about topics relevant to teenage girls and young women.
 - c) They typically play all their own instruments
 - d) They are typically made up of relatives and/or close friends

- 2. True or false: *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* now has historical significance but was not commercially successful when it first came out because it appealed only to young female fans.**
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 3. What historical place did the Girl Groups occupy in American popular music history?**
 - a) Their success came after the Beatles arrived in the US
 - b) Their success came in the vacuum left by the end of the first wave of rock and roll.
 - c) Their success coincided with the sexual revolution of the 1960s and the music it inspired.
 - d) They were part of the first wave of rock and roll that began in the mid-1960s.

- 4. What was significant about the lyrics of *Will You Love Me Tomorrow*?**
 - a) They present the song from a young female perspective
 - b) They were written by Carole King, one of the most important songwriters from this period.
 - c) They present a dialogue between a teenager and her boyfriend, thereby representing both sides of the argument.
 - d) They are typical of girl group lyrics in that there is a strong message of sexual liberation.

- 5. True or false: Solo singers like Little Eva and Leslie Gore are now considered a part of the girl group genre.**
 - a) True
 - b) False

SCROLL TO PAGE 3 FOR ANSWERS

The Shirelles 'Form' – Questions

- 1. What is the formal structure of “Will You Love Me Tomorrow”?**
 - a) Strophic.
 - b) Sonata form.
 - c) ABBA.
 - d) AABA.
- 2. What does the recurring pattern play on the snare drum signify in this song?**
 - a) The fluttering heartbeat of the singer.
 - b) The societal pressure to have sex.
 - c) It doesn't signify anything—it is there to keep the band together.
 - d) The response from the singer's boyfriend.
- 3. The nonsense syllables that are often heard from the backing singers in girl groups come from which of the following genres?**
 - a) Jazz.
 - b) Rock and roll.
 - c) Classical music.
 - d) Doo-wop.
- 4. True or false: The presence of strings and absence of the electric guitar signify a more aggressively masculine sensibility?**
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
- 5. The back-up singers in this song sing nonsense syllables (“sha-la-lap-shap”). Why?**
 - a) They make the song easier to learn, thereby saving money on studio time.
 - b) This was one of the Shirelles' selling points, which is why they do it in every song.
 - c) They allowed the girls to express feelings and desires for which they did not yet have the words..
 - d) The back-up singers did not want to steal the spotlight from the soloist.

SCROLL TO PAGE 4 FOR ANSWERS

The Shirelles 'Form' – Answers

- 1. What is the formal structure of “Will You Love Me Tomorrow”?**
 - a) Strophic. Incorrect. This song uses the very common AABA form.
 - b) Sonata form. Incorrect. This song uses the very common AABA form.
 - c) ABBA. Incorrect. This song uses the very common AABA form.
 - d) AABA. Correct. AABA is a very common song form.
- 2. What does the recurring pattern play on the snare drum signify in this song?**
 - a) The fluttering heartbeat of the singer. Correct.
 - b) The societal pressure to have sex. Incorrect. The recurring pattern represents the fluttering heartbeat of the singer.
 - c) It doesn't signify anything—it is there to keep the band together. Incorrect. The recurring pattern represents the fluttering heartbeat of the singer.
 - d) The response from the singer's boyfriend. Incorrect. The recurring pattern represents the fluttering heartbeat of the singer.
- 3. The nonsense syllables that are often heard from the backing singers in girl groups come from which of the following genres?**
 - a) Jazz. Incorrect. They come from doo-wop.
 - b) Rock and roll. Incorrect. They come from doo-wop.
 - c) Classical music. Incorrect. They come from doo-wop.
 - d) Doo-wop. Correct.
- 4. True or false: The presence of strings and absence of the electric guitar signify a more aggressively masculine sensibility?**
 - a) True. Incorrect. The opposite is true.
 - b) False. Correct.
- 5. The back-up singers in this song sing nonsense syllables (“sha-la-lap-shap”). Why?**
 - a) They make the song easier to learn, thereby saving money on studio time. Incorrect. The correct answer is C.
 - b) This was one of the Shirelles' selling points, which is why they do it in every song. Incorrect. The use of nonsense syllabus was very common in girl group music and not just distinctive to the Shirelles.
 - c) They allowed the girls to express feelings and desires for which they did not yet have the words. Correct. This is why the use of nonsense syllables was so common in girl group music.
 - d) The back-up singers did not want to steal the spotlight from the soloist. Incorrect. The correct answer is C.

The Shirelles 'Background' – Answers

1. Which of the following is not a characteristic of girl groups?

- a) They typically sing songs written by professional songwriters. Incorrect. Girl groups often recorded songs written by professional songwriters. The famous songwriter duo of Carole King and Gerry Goffin wrote *Will You Love Me Tomorrow*.
- b) They typically sing songs about topics relevant to teenage girls and young women. Incorrect. One of the key features of Girl Group music is that they sang about topics important to their fans.
- c) They typically play all their own instruments. Correct.
- d) They are typically made up of relatives and/or close friends. Incorrect. Many girl groups, due to the way they were formed, were made up of relatives and/or close friends.

2. True or false: *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* now has historical significance but was not commercially successful when it first came out because it appealed only to young female fans.

- a) True. Incorrect. *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* was the first Girl Group single to make it to #1 on *Billboard's* Top 100 chart.
- b) False. Correct.

3. What historical place did the Girl Groups occupy in American popular music history?

- a) Their success came after the Beatles arrived in the US. Incorrect. The arrival of the Beatles in the US in 1964 essentially put an end to the dominant success of girl groups.
- b) Their success came in the vacuum left by the end of the first wave of rock and roll. Correct.
- c) Their success coincided with the sexual revolution of the 1960s and the music it inspired. Incorrect. Girl groups were popular in the early 1960s, before the beginning of the sexual revolution of the 1960s.
- d) They were part of the first wave of rock and roll that began in the mid-1960s. Incorrect. Girl groups were popular after the first wave of rock and roll ended in the late 1950s.

4. What was significant about the lyrics of *Will You Love Me Tomorrow*?

- a) They present the song from a young female perspective. Correct.
- b) They were written by Carole King, one of the most important songwriters from this period. Incorrect. King wrote the music. Gerry Goffin wrote the lyrics.
- c) They present a dialogue between a teenager and her boyfriend, thereby representing both sides of the argument. Incorrect. The song is sung from a young female perspective alone.
- d) They are typical of girl group lyrics in that there is a strong message of sexual liberation. Incorrect. While these lyrics are typical for a girl group song, they do not argue for sexual liberation. The song ends with question unanswered.

5. True or false: Solo singers like Little Eva and Leslie Gore are now considered a part of the girl group genre.

- a) True. Correct. Even though they were not part of a group, their music display the characteristics one would expect to find in girl groups.
- b) False. Incorrect. Even though they were not part of a group, their music display the characteristics one would expect to find in girl groups.