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PRUEBA COMÚN

Inglés

HIP-HOP PLANET: THE MUSIC THAT CAN'T BE IGNORED

Not since the advent of swing jazz in the 1930s has an American music exploded across the world with such great force. Not since the Beatles invaded America and Elvis showed his blue suede shoes has a music style crashed against the world with such violence. This defiant culture of song, graffiti, and dance, collectively known as hip-hop, has permeated every culture. In Brazil, rap rivals samba in popularity. In China, teenagers spray-paint graffiti on the Great Wall. In France it has been blamed, unfairly, for the worst civil unrest that country has seen in decades.

The long history is that spoken-word music made its way here on slave ships from West Africa centuries ago: Ethnomusicologists trace hip-hop's roots to the dance, drum and song of West African storytellers. Hip-hop has continually changed form, evolving from party music to social commentary. Today, alternative hip-hop artists continue to produce socially conscious songs, but commercial rappers shout violent lyrics that debase women and gays.

However, this music has become popular not only in developed countries. In Senegal, for example, there are hundreds of rap groups today. And beneath the drums and the dancing and the sound of tourist money, Senegalese sing about the humiliation of poverty, the fury against their former colonial rulers. Everywhere in the world, hip-hop evokes a deep sense of something wrong going in the air. It is no easy matter to deal with a music that embraces violence but, at its best, hip-hop shows the moral emptiness that is our generation's legacy.

1. Reading comprehension. Choose the correct answer. Only one answer is correct (50%).

1.
 - a) Hip-hop is the most popular American music in the world since the 1930s.
 - b) Hip-hop music became popular in the 1930s.
 - c) Hip-hop is not as popular as swing jazz was in the 1930s.

2.
 - a) This music is associated with samba and other national styles.
 - b) This music is associated with the Beatles and Elvis.
 - c) This music is associated with graffiti and violence.

3.
 - a) The origins of hip-hop music can be traced in current Senegal.
 - b) The origins of hip-hop music can be traced in America.
 - c) The origins of hip-hop music can be traced in centuries-old Africa.

4.
 - a) All hip-hop artists sing about social injustice.
 - b) Some hip-hop artists sing about social injustice.
 - c) All hip-hop artists sing about violence.

2. Writing. According to the text, what do you think is the author's opinion about hip-hop music? Explain it in 50 words approximately (25%).

3. Use of English. Answer the following questions (25%).

1. Vocabulary. Match the words in A with their meaning in B.

A	B
1 advent	a showing aggression or refusal to obey
2 defiant	b someone who tells or writes stories
3 unfairly	c coming into existence
4 storyteller	d with no right, unjustly

2. Fill in the gaps with an appropriate word, so that the second sentence means the same as the first one.

- 2.1. Jazz music exists since the 1930s.
Jazz music has existed _____ 7 decades now.
- 2.2. Spoken-word music made its way here on slave ships from West Africa.
Spoken-word music _____ in America on slave ships from West Africa.
- 2.3. It has become popular not only in developed countries.
It has become popular _____ in developed and underdeveloped countries.
- 2.4. In Brazil, rap rivals samba.
In Brazil, rap is _____ popular _____ samba.

3. Complete the sentences with a suitable verb form. The infinitive form is given.

- 3.1. He was blamed for _____ the money. (steal)
- 3.2. I remember when I first _____ rap, I _____ at a party in Harlem. (hear, dance)
- 3.3. A teenager _____ rap lyrics at the street is a common image nowadays in our cities. (shout)

4. Ask questions for the following answers:

- 4.1. _____ ?
Hip-hop started at the end of the 1970s.
- 4.2. _____ ?
It has become popular all around the world.
- 4.3. _____ ?
Senegalese sing about the humiliation of poverty.

