1) What types of music do you like to listen to?
It depends what mood I’m in but generally, I like easy listening although I am a massive fan of country music and play this genre more than any other.

2) Are there any kinds of music that you dislike?
I’m not really into jazz. It’s just not my taste in music, especially when the musicians improvise. It sounds like they are all playing different tunes and there’s no harmony.

3) Do you ever go to music gigs?
I love listening to live music and go to local gigs at least once a month. I only go to concerts by top bands once in a blue moon as I live a long way from the big music venues.

4) Have you ever been in a music group or a band?
I was a vocalist in my church music group for several years and also sang in the choir when I was in school.

5) Does your country have a traditional type of music or dance?
Folk music and Morris dancing are both traditional in the UK. The music for this type of dancing is often played on the fiddle and accordion, with a drum to give the dancers a good rhythm and beat.
Part 2

Describe your favourite music group or band. You should say:

- what group or band is it
- what type of music they play
- how long you have been listening to their songs
- and explain why you like this music group or band.

I like many different groups but the one that comes top of my list has to be Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

I first heard their music way back in 1980. I had a boyfriend who had one of their albums and I was a fan from the first track I heard. I’ve been listening to them ever since. The song that really hooked me was “The River”. It’s still one of my favourite songs of all time. It has a slow, haunting melody and beautiful lyrics.

In those days, very few people in my country had heard of Bruce Springsteen but all these years later his band are often on tour here and they play sellout concerts around the world. His nickname is “The Boss” which shows how much people respect him and his great music.

Although the E Street Band are essentially a rock band, there are strong influences of folk, rock and roll, blues and country in their music which helps then appeal to a wide audience.

I was once given two tickets to one of the band’s concerts at Cardiff Arms Park rugby stadium; a great venue. They were a Christmas present and I took my sister along with me. It’s the only time I’ve seen them at a live gig but it’s an event I shall never forget. What a wonderful experience. We sang along to all the songs.

The highlight of the show was when they performed “The River. At the end, the band stopped playing and Bruce led the audience in singing the chorus over and over again. It was amazing and a very special moment. I actually found it quite moving as that was the song that had started me as a fan all those years ago and there I was singing it with him. There was silence when it finally ended and then the applause started and went on for what seemed like forever.

It’s hard to put in words why I like Bruce Springsteen and his band so much. I think it’s because their lyrics are so real while most of the songs have a strong melody that stirs your soul. That’s the best way I can put it.
Part 3

1) Is it important to listen to music with other people?
I think that listening to music can be both a social experience and a personal one. Young people in particular like chilling out with friends while listening to their favourite tracks. There’s also something special about attending a live gig with your mates and singing along to the familiar tunes with all the other fans.

I’ve only ever been to a couple of music festivals but what I remember as much as the bands and the fantastic music was the atmosphere of the events and that was created by all the people who were there.

On the other hand, you can enjoy music just as much when listening on your own. The fact that everywhere you look there are people walking around wearing earphones or headphone seems to be proof of this. So, in conclusion, I would say that while it’s nice to share music with others, it’s not especially important.

2) Why do you think older and younger generations prefer different types of music?
That’s something I’ve never really thought about but I suppose it’s because they grew up listening to different types of music as styles change over time.

Speaking for myself, there are many talented new bands and singers that I enjoy listening to. I often buy their albums and download them onto my MP3 player, but there’s nothing quite like the music I loved when I was in my teens. Perhaps it's as much to do with the memories it brings back as the music itself.

That’s how I see it and I guess that many other people probably feel the same.
3) Do you think that music should be a compulsory subject in schools?
I do believe that music should be taught in schools. This is for several reasons. Firstly, it's important to develop children's creativity and music is a great way to do this. They should be encouraged to learn to play a **musical instrument**, but it's valuable if they just enjoy learning and singing a few **songs** together.

Secondly, making music is an excellent way of teaching youngster how to work together in a fun way and most of them enjoy performing to their friends.

Finally, most schools put on **concerts** and other musical **performances**. Taking part in these gives children confidence and they are an important part of the curriculum.

While older children may drop the subject for exams, having school **choirs** and **orchestras** provides other opportunities for them to continue their interest in music.

**Music Vocabulary for IELTS**

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