

CALYPSO MUSIC

Calypso is the national dance and song of Trinidad and Tobago. The calypso tradition, popularized abroad in the late 1950s, dates to the early 19th century and was originally called caïso or cariso. During the carnival season before Lent, groups of slaves led by popular singers, or shatwell, wandered through the streets singing and improvising veiled lyrics directed toward unpopular political figures or slave masters.

It is a combination of many different musical genres fused together. The main influence was that of the African slaves who were taken over to the West Indies during the Slave Trade and brought with them a variety of rhythms.

Calypso Music was the original way of spreading news around the island as well as a way in which the slaves mocked the slave master. It's main characteristics are syncopated rhythms, vocal harmonies with the use of call and response and often uses a three beat rhythm with two long notes and one shorter note.

Favourite accompanying instruments are the shak-shak (maraca), guitar, cuatro (a string instrument), and tamboo-bamboo (bamboo poles of various lengths struck on the ground). Since World War II, tuned oil drums, played together in orchestras called steel bands, have been very popular.

1. Where is calypso the national dance and song of? **Underline one** answer

- a. Tenerife and Gran Canaria
- b. Mallorca
- c. Trinidad and Tobago
- d. Jamaica

2. Calypso dates back to the 18th century. **Underline 1** answer.

True or **False**

3. What was the main purpose of Calypso Music. **Find and copy** the sentence:

4. **Find and copy** 4 characteristics of Calypso Music.

- 1). _____
- 2). _____
- 3). _____
- 4). _____

5. Which 2 instruments are used as accompanying instruments in Calypso Music? **Tick one** answer

Guitar & drums

Guitar & cuatro

Guitar & bass guitar

6. In which decade was the calypso tradition popularized? **Tick one** answer.

1950's

1960's

1980's

7. Who were the lyrics of Calypso Music aimed at? **Underline 2** correct answers.

Political figures **Musicians** **Slave Masters** **Soldiers**

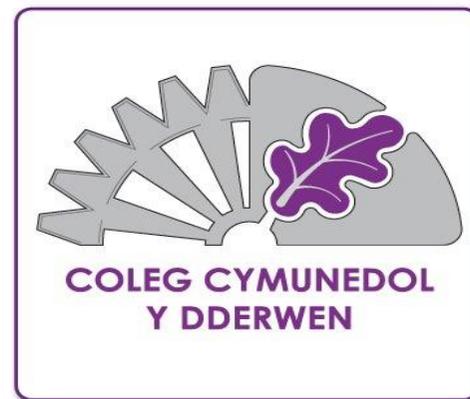
8. Which type of bands have been popular since World War II? **Tick one** answer

Rock Bands

Orchestras

Steel Bands

Brass Bands



**YEAR 7
NRT HOMEWORK CALYPSO MUSIC**

Question	Marks
Q1 – 1 MARK	
Q2 – 1 MARK	
Q3 – 1 MARK	
Q4 – 4 MARKS	
Q5 – 1 MARK	
Q6 – 1 MARK	
Q7 – 2 MARK	
Q8 – 1 MARK	
TOTAL = 12	TOTAL MARKS =