

Music in Culture and Society – Assignment 2

Assignment 2: Essay

This essay will allow you to explore in more detail some of the topics and ideas raised in the module sessions and in your wider reading. You should select from the following titles, or consult one of the tutors *soon* if you would like to propose an alternative.

1. Conduct your own small-scale investigation of 'music in everyday life', using a suitable method to investigate the experiences of 5 or more people whom you know (this could include yourself). How do your findings confirm, relate to, or perhaps contradict established work in this area?
2. Write a critical evaluation of some of the claims made for music in education, referring to websites, published books and articles as appropriate. What are your own views on how music contributes to learning in schools and beyond?
3. Consider the musical opportunities available to adults in a specific location (of your choice). What are the barriers and incentives for participation in music beyond institutional contexts?
4. Referring to the available literature on music and identities, conduct an interview study that considers the musical identities of 3 or 4 people whom you know. How are their senses of 'self as musician' shaped by their experience, context and self-perception?
5. You have been hired to produce a Music festival. Bearing in mind some of the representational, political, social and ethical issues that have been raised in class, describe and justify the rationale for your festival, and discuss your criteria for act/event selection, your marketing strategies, and your guiding principles for the public relations team.
6. You have been contractually obligated to design and teach an undergraduate Music in Culture and Society course to non-music students. Outline your course rationale, discuss how it might relate to the expectations of students, and discuss some of the challenges that you think you might face in teaching such a course.
7. Attend a local concert or music event and undertake a critical analysis of the event in relation to themes raised in class, particularly with regard to issues of music and identity in Sheffield.
8. *'Music is no different than opium. Music affects the human mind in a way that makes people think of nothing but music and sensual matters. Music is a treason to the country, a treason to our youth, and we should cut out all this music and replace it with something instructive'* (Ayatollah Khomeini, Speech, 1979). Referring to the available literature on music, culture, and society, critically discuss possible cultural, social, and political implications of this statement.

Successful assignments will be written in stylish and engaging prose, and will display a thorough understanding of the material under discussion. They will address the essay question in depth, considering a variety of perspectives to present a balanced argument.

Less successful assignments will be limited in their discussion, and will present a simplistic or partial response to the essay title. They will display little evidence of reading beyond the course materials, or will replicate the content of sessions without additional critical thought.

Discussion of this assignment will be the focus of your tutorial in the week beginning **29th November**. You should bring a plan of your essay to that tutorial and be prepared to discuss your ideas in detail.

Submission deadline: Friday 21st January 2005 (2 copies to be submitted to the Department Office by 5.00 p.m.)