

**KEY FEATURES OF REGGAE MUSIC**

Off-Beat	Guitar & Piano emphasise chords on beats 2 & 4 or on the second weaker quaver e.g. 1+ 2+. This is called <b>chop</b> .
Organ Shuffle/Bubble	Left hand plays offbeat quavers whilst the right hand plays the offbeat <b>chop</b> .
Staccato	When notes are played short and detached.
Riff	Repeated music pattern. Often the bass-line will be based around a riff.
Chord Pattern	Often quite simple, repeated chord patterns used throughout a song.
Rim Shot	Where the drum stick hits the rim and the skin of the snare drum simultaneously.
Political Lyrics	Songs often critical of politics and raise awareness of social issues such as racism and poverty
Horn Stabs	Short interjecting melodies played by the 'horn section'

**Reggae Instrumentation**

**Vocals** - Lead singer

**Backing Vocals** - often 2 or 3 backing singers would be in the band. Often sing responses to the lead vocal line and sometimes add harmonies.

**Guitar** - electric guitar, often quite thin sounding playing 'chop' chords

**Piano** - often doubling the chop chords played on guitar. Played staccato.

**Organ** - plays the 'Bubble' - quite a tricky part to master. The 'Hammond' organ was popular with artists in the 1970s.

**Bass Guitar** - played with a heavy and deep sound by boosting the low frequencies.

**Horn Section** - usually comprise of trumpet, saxophone & trombone. They often play introductions and 'stabs'.

**REGGAE DRUM GROOVES**

**Have a listen...**

One Drop	You don't hit on beat 1. You play the kick drum on beat 3.	'One Drop' - Bob Marley
Stepper	The kick drum is played on all 4 beats, which gives a strong driving rhythm.	'Exodus' - Bob Marley
Rocker	Beats 1 and 3 are emphasised.	'Night Nurse' - Gregory Issacs

**DEVELOPMENT OF REGGAE**

**MENTO:**

- Jamaican folk music popular in the 1950s
- Used guitar, banjo & drums
- Featured lots of verses (Strophic Form)
- Light-hearted lyrics of every day life

**SKA:**

- Fast dance music that emerged in the late 1950s
- Fuses American Rhythm & Blues with Mento rhythms
- Uses electric guitars and jazzy horn sections (trumpets, saxophones & trombone)
- Uses offbeat jumpy rhythms
- Has lyrics about local issues

**REGGAE:**

- Slower than Ska and emerged in the 1960s
- Amplified bass guitar riffs
- Associated with **rastafarianism** (a religious movement worshipping Haile Selassie)
- Characteristic rhythm in 4/4 with missing beat emphasis
- Repeated off beat quavers
- Verse & Chorus form

**ROCK STEADY:**

- Dance music that emerged in the mid-1960s
- Rhythms more relaxed than Ska
- Loud bass guitar playing steady 4/4 beat
- Political themes in lyrics

**DUB:**

- Popular in the 1970s
- Instrumental remixes of existing reggae tracks
- Most of the vocals would be removed
- Drum and bass parts emphasised
- Effects such as echo delay and reverb added.
- Early form of popular electronic music.