

Popular Music

Late 1960s Pop/Rock

Instrumentation	Drumkit, Piano, Electric/Bass Guitar, Voice
Rhythm	• Minimal syncopation • Bass complements drums
Meter	Mainly 4/4
Harmony	Diatonic: Harmony related to triadic chords
Timbre	Singing: • Light Hearted • Male Falsetto • Vocal Harmonies (Backing Vocals)
Structure and Form	• Verse-Chorus: Intro - Verse 1 - Chorus - Verse 2 - Chorus - Bridge - Chorus • 32 bar ballad form • Longer, experimental structure
Examples	The Beach Boys - Good Vibrations , The Rolling Stones - Jumpin' Jack Flash , The Beatles - Hey Jude ; Let It Be

Synth Pop

Instrumentation	Main Melody - Synth Lead/Vocal Harmony - Synth Pad Bass - Synth Bass & Electric Bass Rhythm - Drum Machine
Rhythm	• Syncopation • Dominance of quavers and semiquavers
Metre	4/4
Harmony	• Repeated chord progressions featuring riffs (Ostinato) • Mostly diatonic chords
Structure & Form	Verse-Chorus
Background	Late 1970s-1980s • Recording Technology Advancements: Arpeggiator Function, Sequence Loops, Drum Machines, Vocoder (Lead instrument)
Examples	Depeche Mode - Strange Love, Kraftwerk - The Robots, Eurhythmics - Sweet Dreams are Made of This, A-ha - Take On Me
Sound Effects	1. Reverb - Add space to sound 2. Delay - "Echo" with decay 3. Pan - Stereo 2 channels that can be split to left or right 4. Fading - Manipulating volume from silence 5. Distortion - Alter sound by increasing "gain", giving rise to harsh sound

R&B/Soul

Instrumentation	Piano, Horns (brass), Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums, Vocal
Vocal texture	• Soulful, raspy • With inflections, modulation of intonation in voice • Ad libs • Contemporary R&B • Vocal Runs (Melisma but in Pop style) • Inclusion of Rap
Texture	• Early R&B and Soul - Thick instrumentation • Contemporary - Thinner, Sparse, Ballad Style
Rhythm & Metre	• 3/4, 4/4, compound variants • Ad lib syncopation carries through in vocal/instrument interpretation
Harmony	• Mostly diatonic with blues/jazz influence • Occasional use of non-diatonic chords (chromaticism)
Structure/Form	Verse-Chorus Form
Historical Context	(1950s-60s) • Evolved from jump blues in the late 1940s • Played and produced by Blacks, help break down racial barriers by appealing to all • Soul is similar to R&B, but mixed with other genres like Gospel and Funk (2000s - now) • Strongly associated with hip hop and rap • More mellow character • Synthesized instrument > acoustic
Example	60s R&B (Motown): The Supremes - You Can't Hurry Love, Soul: Stevie Wonder - Sir Duke, Contemporary R&B: Alicia Keys - If I Ain't Got You