Unit 1: The World of Music

Task: Presentation (1-2 minutes)

1. Introduction: Read the following newspaper extract and prepare a presentation outlining the importance of music in our lives.

Harmony restored

Workers at a clothing factory are singing the praises of their bosses who have gone back on a decision to ban the playing of music during working hours. Bosses had previously complained that their employees were distracted by the music and constant chatter of the local disc jockey. However, the workers claimed the music actually helped them work harder and raised their morale.

2. Planning: Spend 1 minute making notes. If it helps, use any of the following questions as the basis of your talk.

What social or cultural significance does music have?
What ways can music benefit the individual?
To what extent does music play an important role in your life?

3. Task focus: Try organising your talk around three main points. People often find it easy to remember and process things in threes and using this ‘rule of threes’ strategy can help both you and your audience. You could deal briefly with the three issues above or focus on one issue and give three detailed examples in the main body of your talk.

4. Language: Tick any of the vocabulary or quotes on the left you want to use in your talk.

Task: Discussion (15 minutes)

As part of a student panel you’ve been asked to discuss the following:

Is the popularity of traditional music from your country being undermined by the spread of American or British pop music?

Consider the effect across generations, the role of channels like MTV, the choice of language for vocals etc.