



Punk and New Wave

History and
Development

Punk

Key Facts

- Influenced by rock'n'roll, hard rock and 60s pop
- Actively went against the polished, highly produced sound of other genres at the time
- Music conveyed themes of being anti-establishment and lyrics featured social and political commentary
- Fashion was very important to the genre



- Pictured: Sex Pistols
- Disco, Prog. Rock and Heavy rock
- Mohicans were a popular hairstyle, often spiked up and dyed bright colours
- Custom clothing with lots of zips and safety pins was also common

Punk

Main Artists

- Sex Pistols (*God Save The Queen* – 1977)
- The Clash
- The Stranglers
- The Jam
- The Buzzcocks (*Ever Fallen In Love* – 1978)
- Stiff Little Fingers
- The Undertones
- The Damned
- The Ruts
- Siouxsie and the Banshees



- Pictured: The Clash

Punk Technology & Production

- DIY production ethos
- Some distortion on guitars but not to the extent of heavy rock music
- Effects were used but were not as polished as the sounds of 60s disco and pop music



- Pictured: The Stranglers
- Low budget production using independent studios
- Set ups were stripped down to the bare basics for a raw, unprocessed sound
- Distortion sounded thin and harsh compared to the fuller tones of heavy rock
- No use of 'psychedelic' effects like delay and flanger

New Wave

Key Facts

- Influenced by punk, reggae and funk
- Punk was only popular for a brief part of the 70s-80s
- Like punk, new wave gave off a strong sense of independence from establishment



- Pictured: Blondie
- New wave began to grow in popularity after Punk started to fizzle out
- Lyrics also tended to portray social and political issues

New Wave

Main Artists

- Elvis Costello (*Pump It Up* – 1978)
- Ian Dury
- XTC
- Squeeze
- The Police
- The Pretenders
- Blondie (*Call Me* – 1980)
- Talking Heads



- Pictured: The Police

New Wave Technology & Production

- Aim of production was to create an energetic and unprocessed sound
- Tended to sound slightly more polished when compared to punk music
- Keyboards were used in more ways and gave more depth to the sound



- Pictured: The Pretenders
- Similar production ethos to punk music