**Melody**

Often uses ‘Blue notes’ (Flattened 3rd, 5th and 7th against a major chord).

Catchy melodies with narrow vocal range.

Vocal and guitar melodies use repeated phrases, riffs and hooks.

**Harmony + Tonality**

Major tonality using mainly simple and repetitive chords – I,IV and V.   
Slow harmonic rhythm often using the 12 bar blues structure.

(I-I-I-I-IV-IV-I-I-V-IV-I-I)

Close harmonies used in vocals.

**Rock and Roll**

\*Rock and Roll originated from many styles from the US in the late 40s. It came from gospel, blues, jazz and country music to name a few.

\*African-Americans were moving into big cities like Memphis, New York and Detroit so music styles clashed and were experimented with—it brought all backgrounds together

\*The development of technology helped to make this style popular—including the development of the 45rpm record. This meant that singles could be bought and played at home

\*Rock and Roll became popular in England in the 50s and this was led by artists such as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Tommy Steele, Bill Haley and The Beatles.

**Rock and Roll**

**Production**

Amplifiers for electric guitars used for the first time. Basic effects such as Reverb and Echo. Clean guitar sounds (not overdrive).

Double track lead and backing vocals for richer sounds.

‘Raw’ sound of recordings.

**Rhythm and Tempo**

Tempo – Fast (allegro) ideal to dance to. 4/4 time signature.

Backbeat accents on beats 2 and 4. Often features walking bass line. Syncopation, swung rhythms and boogie-woogie rhythms also used.

**Structure**

Verse -chorus structure with short intro, solo verses, chorus, instrumental section (improvised solos or scat singing) ending with a coda/ outro.

**Instrumentation and Timbre**

Early Rock ‘n’ Roll – lead vocalist accompanied by a small group of acoustic instruments such as piano, drum kit, saxophone, trumpet, harmonica, trombone and double bass.

The electric guitar became and essential part of Rock ‘n’ Roll and backing singers/ vocalists were frequently used in Rock ‘n’ Roll songs.