Assignment - 1

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Question - 1

How has music's role as "social glue" evolved over time with music consumption now being
an increasingly individual activity? What are the advantages and disadvantages of how music is consumed in the age of the internet as compared to the pre-internet era? Cite all sources for the arguments provided in your answer.

Note - Citations made at end with references in text with italic font and numbers denoting the citation numbers in red.

During the course of time music has been evolving and providing its different uses towards various different feels and has been using different mediums to evolve as its evolution continues it creates a very different and distinguished mark on the society. Music as a "social glue" has evolved such a way that once it was helpful to group people together but as in the internet age music consumption has become increasingly individual.

 [1] - Music exerts a powerful influence on human beings. It can boost memory, build task endurance, lighten your mood, reduce anxiety and depression, stave off fatigue, improve your response to pain, and help you work out more effectively.

Pre-Internet Era:

 [1] - Music remains a powerful way of uniting people:

- national anthems connect crowds at sporting events

- protest songs stir a sense of shared purpose during marches

- hymns build group identity in houses of worship

- love songs help prospective partners bond during courtship

- lullabies enable parents and infants to develop secure attachments

- Collective Experiences: Live performances, choirs, festivals, and other shared experiences helped music build community and solidarity. It was deeply intertwined with religious rituals and cultural traditions.

- Limited Choices: Access to music was restricted through radio, records, and cassette tapes. This made shared favorites a common topic, further uniting those who enjoyed the same music.

- Interactive Participation: Playing instruments, singing, and dancing offered more opportunities for direct engagement with music creation and performance.

Internet Era:

- Personalized Experiences: Streaming services and playlist creation allow for highly personalized music experiences tailored to individual tastes. People can tune into their own worlds and curate unique soundscapes.

- Abundant Choices: Any genre is readily available, opening doors to discover artists from around the globe. Diversity is amplified, but forming specific communities can be more challenging.

- Tech-Fueled Connections: Social media and online communities provide ways to connect with like-minded people and share music experiences. However, physical distance and lack of direct interaction pose certain concerns.

Advantages of internet consumption:

- Access to Diversity: Explore music from all over the world and make exciting new discoveries.

- Personalized Experiences: Craft your own music journey according to your tastes.

- Global Connections: To Connect us with people worldwide through the shared language of music.

- Solve issues on our own - helps reducing anxiety solve mental issues

Disadvantages of internet consumption:

- Difficulties in Forming Communities: Fewer shared experiences makes it harder to build specific communities around music leading to not so good mental life.

- *[2] - Might be distracting : Right music can be great for concentration if you listen to the right type of music But wrong music can be distracting and can make you lose focus.*

- Passive Music Experiences: Consumption becomes one-sided, reducing chances of active engagement with music and we may loose connection with the other cherished ones.

- Algorithmic Bias: Recommendation algorithms can create filter bubbles, such that it can potentially hinder our new discoveries.

Citations :

- [1] - article on health - https://www.healthline.com/health/benefits-of-music#mood-boost

- [2] - 7 Disadvantages of Music – Its Negative Impacts - https://www.musicianwave.com/disadvantages-of-music/
  - additional link to explore regarding the topic - (here)!

- [3] - collective page on experience of music - https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-advantages-and-disadvantages-of-growing-up-in-a-pre-internet-era-or-a-post-internet-era

- general AI suggested ideas using bard and chatgpt !

Question - 2

When does music become noise? Address this question in two scenarios:

1. When listening to music as an individual activity.
2. When listening to music in public settings.

1. Music Listening as a individual activity

Various different combination of factors determine wether music is being a noise even when is purely at an individual listening level where we have hold on which kind, type

,jounour of music we are listening to for convience I would like to present factors seperated in two types maily **Objective** and **Subjective .**

Objective factors such as *Volume, Sound, Context* are factors to determine wether the music being a noise or not pleasant to the listener *Volume* is the major factor that provides the happiness enjoyment and allows us to cherish the music when a slow happy mood lifting music is heard in a very large Decibles of sound it dosent make the impact or creates the mood that is required and often creates a disturbance hence becomes a noise and when hearing to beat song the amount the volume maybe high but in limit if it is played in the excessive levels it becomes unpleasant and damaging to the hearing regardless or genre .

Sound quality is also a very important factor as it determines how it pleases the listener having harsh and distorted sounds that can grate on ears are considered and noise and ruins the quality rythms and soul of the music which makes it dishearting.

Context is one of the considerate and appropriate parameters which was often been in discussions as it should be appropriate towards the setting of the room. considering library , gym and dance club and genre of music to be played there.

Subjective factors such as *Personal preference, Mood and Mindset, Expectations and associations* as Individual tastes vary greatly. What one person finds beautiful, another might find boring or irritating. Genre, style and even specific instruments can evoke strong feelings, positive or negative. The emotional state of a person significantly affects how they perceive music. Music that might soothe us in one mood could grate on our nerves in another. Past experiences and expectations can colour our perception of music. A genre associated with negative memories be hard to enjoy, even if objectively well-composed.

So, when listening individually, music could transition to noise under various circumstances:

- When it becomes physically uncomfortable due to volume or harshness.

- When its style or composition clashes with your current mood or preferences.

- When personal associations make it unpleasant, even if it's generally considered "good" music.

- If the context makes it disruptive or inappropriate.

The boundary between music and noise is fundamentally subjective and ever-changing. What may resonate as beautiful to one person could be perceived as an auditory onslaught by another. It's crucial to recognize andhonour this subjectivity, showing consideration for individual preferences, particularly when participating in shared musical environments.

Music stands as a potent medium capable of eliciting a diverse spectrum of emotions and encounters. Engage in active listening, demonstrate regard for personal tastes, and be mindful of adjusting volume levels and context to cultivate a truly pleasurable listening atmosphere for both yourself and those sharing the auditory space with you.

2. Listening to music in public setting

Various different combination of factors determine wether music is being a noise in public setting is bit tricky than individual as it requires and demands balance between individual preferences and needs to respect the requests of other people present in the community finding a balance between two sometimes may seem difficult which can make is seem like a noise if not done so properly I would like to present factors seperated in two types maily **Objective** and **Subjective .**

Objective factors such as *volume, context, content* are to be considered properly as excessivve volume may potentially kill the rythm , beat and happiness that is present in the music and make is disrupting to others causing even physical and mental risks such as headaches and hearing damage

Context must appropriate when in a public setting as the setting of the atmosphere and room are to considered as playing high beat jazz or pop song in a quite and peaceful libraby or park can make it seem noise regardless of the quality of the music and carefully considered use of the space and surrounding noise level makes it happy and seem enjoyable

Content lyrics that are offensive and explicit may cause many unsettling disputes and create offensive impressions and maybe a reason of cause to hurt even when the music isn't loud

Subjective factors such as *Individual Preferences, Cultural forms, Time* are factors to be considered as with a diverse nature of india brings diverse taste thoughts nad intrests which makes it even more interesting but requires a bit of consideration of choice towards everyone

Timing is a must and very important factor which may make a person very irritated or annoyed as Early mornings or late nights are generally not the best times for blasting music, as people might be sleeping or trying to relax which can disturb their mental as well as physical health.

Specific examples of when music might become noise in public settings:

- Loud music on public transportation, like a bus or train.

- Blaring music from your car stereo while parked or driving through a residential area.

- Cranking up the volume at a picnic or park gathering, disturbing other visitors.

- Using a speaker at the beach or pool without considering other people's enjoyment.

It's crucial to show consideration for others and be conscious of the situation. Here are some suggestions for enjoying music in public without becoming a disturbance:

- Opt for headphones or earbuds to maintain our music experience as a personal affair.

- Keep the volume at a moderate level, ensuring it doesn't disrupt others.

- Stay aware of your surroundings and choose music that suits the environment.

- If someone requests us to lower the volume, respond with respect and comply.

By following to these suggestions, we contribute to ensuring that everyone can relish their musical preferences without encroaching on the tranquillity and
comfort of others. Let's maintain the harmony of public spaces, filling them
with music, but always for the right reasons!

Question - 3

Perform PCA (with varimax rotation) on the data provided to you from Task 1 to explore music preference dimensions. Report the total variance explained by

1. the first 6 components, and,

2. the first 4 components.
   Label the components according to your understanding and compare the loadings in both

scenarios with those from Table 2 and Table 3 respectively. Discuss your observations.

What genres in your opinion should be added to STOMP to make it relevant to current times?

Results with percomponent analysis with PCA (varimax rotation)

1. variance of varimax of 6 components: [1.79922776 1.32321768 1.26490977 1.20841767 1.19368184 1.00743622]

2. variance of varimax of 4 components: [1.78852189 1.70030951 1.33475196 1.19615453]

Due to constraint on the dataframe and low entries of around 60 only my analysis data seems rather different from the tables provided having more diverse and abundant data can make changes to the analysis and vary in results

As the complexity of the music is being changes due to diverse range of listeners which means they like more towards all the genre, so may be there is high value music preference