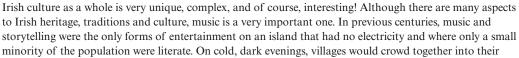


# **EACKPACK**

### Get Ready for your Exam!

## UNIT 2

### **Évaluation ∃**→ **Ø**



- local pub to share a warm fire, hear stories and listen to music played by the local musicians [...]. It started a tradition that has been kept alive since then, as music is still a very important part of life in Ireland. A quintessential experience for any visitor to the Emerald Isle, particularly rural Ireland or anywhere along the west coast, is participating in what is locally known as a 'trad sesh', or a session of traditional Irish music in a local pub. This usually involves a handful of musicians all playing old folk songs on native
- 10 instruments, ranging from slow, melancholy singing to the energetic and very fast paced type of music that most people around the world know to be 'Irish'. [...]
  - Like most other aspects of Irish culture and traditions, the beginning of Irish music as we know it today can be traced back to the arrival of the Celts. Having spread from central Europe all the way to the shores of the Atlantic, they picked up a few skills along the way, and using musical instruments was one of them.
- 15 In particular, they had one significant instrument; the harp. This was the most dominant sound in Ireland long after the Celts had made way to the Vikings and the modern era, enjoying popularity from the 10th right up until the 17th centuries. [...] Anyone proficient in the harp could earn themselves a very nice living playing in the courts of the chieftains, as the harp and harpists were held in very high regard along with poets and other artistically inclined people. [...]
- 20 [The harp] appears on our coins, all government documentation, and just about any other official symbol
  - Traditional Irish songs can be broken down into two very general categories; the slow ballad songs and the fast paced dancing songs, both of which have several subcategories. There is a song for just about every eventuality in Irish music; laments, drinking songs, rebel songs, love songs, humorous songs, and of course,
- 25 dancing songs. [...]
  - These days, the music you'll hear around Ireland does not often feature bodhráns<sup>1</sup>, harps and tin whistles. There are plenty of Irish music groups keeping the traditional style alive - The Dubliners and The Pogues to name just two – but Irish music has definitely moved with the times and produced some world class acts along the way. [...] The live music scene in Ireland is booming, be it traditional or modern music that
- 30 is played, and more and more talented new musicians are coming up the ranks all the time. It may have changed a lot over the centuries, but one thing has stayed the same; Irish music is still bringing people together, and making them dance.

Claddagh Design, Traditional Irish Music: What's it all about?, 2017

1 an Irish small drum

#### Compréhension de l'écrit



Read the text and write an account in English. Use the following guidelines to help you. You may for instance choose to focus on:

- Where Irish music originates from;
- The original purpose of music in Ireland;
- How Irish music lives on today both in Ireland and internationally;
- The place and role of the harp in Irish history.

#### Expression écrite (?)



Choisissez l'un des deux sujets.

- Sujet 1: Do you think that music can help to preserve a country's identity? Why (not)?
- Sujet 2: Discuss the following quote from the article: "Irish music is still bringing people together, and making them dance." (l. 32-33).

Is this specific to Irish music?