

IF the project directions had been: find three examples of songs showing characteristics of ska/reggae music, this could be a sample paper.

Thesis: 1 sentence, clearly identifies 3 topics, about ska and reggae music.  
Thesis: A  
1<sup>st</sup> paragraph matches 1<sup>st</sup> thesis topic  
2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph matches 2<sup>nd</sup> thesis topic  
3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph matches 3<sup>rd</sup> thesis topic  
Has thesis and Conclusion. Conclusion matches thesis.  
Information is relevant

Organization: A

Arguments: could have shown a stronger understanding  
- clean up reference to 3<sup>rd</sup> wave ska if not in the paper.

Argument: B

Bad!

Twelve Cents for Marvin, a Fort Collins local ska/reggae band, played shows and released albums from 1996 until 2008. (personal experience) Ska and reggae started in the 1960s, and ska evolved, changing sounds in the 1970s and again in the 1980s. (Wikipedia) Forming in 1996, Twelve Cents for Marvin was heavily influenced by all three waves of ska, as well as reggae. Twelve Cents for Marvin's 2006 album "Change" has an example of first wave style ska with track 15, second wave ska with track 02 and reggae with track 10.

only 2 waves discussed?

Ska music started the 1960s in Jamaica. (Wikipedia) Called "first wave ska," the common characteristics include guitars and keyboards played on the upbeats, walking bass lines and horn melodies. (Wikipedia) Walking bass lines feature quarter notes played on the down beats and note choices that outline the chord qualities. (personal experience) Playing upbeats provide a syncopated feel and is the dominant characteristic of ska, so much so that it is the reason ska is coined "ska." (Wikipedia) Track 15 "Common Bond" has a walking bass line, outlining the characteristics of the chord qualities. The guitar plays accents on the upbeat, and the horns play a written, harmonized line. This combination of characteristics represents first wave Jamaican Ska.

good job citing all facts...but...wiki!?

punctuation?  
explain more about why "ska"?

In the 1970s, ska had a revival in popularity, this time arising in England. (Wikipedia) Tempos were faster, and songs had a harder edge. (Wikipedia) Second wave or "2 Tone" ska merged Jamaican ska with punk rock. (Wikipedia) The "2 Tone" name arose due to the "racial tensions" of the times. (Wikipedia) Track 02 "Shouting in the Dark" retains the classic walking bass line and guitar upbeat accents characteristic of ska music. "Shouting" has a faster tempo than "Common Bond." Additionally, a distorted guitar updates the sound and attitude of the song, having this song fit in with other second wave ska songs.

Evidence:

Really? Wikipedia?  
Don't use Wikipedia!

MLA Format → watch The works cited list!

-Where are the song samples? How can I evaluate these examples?

Evidence: B/C  
probably C because Songs are NOT included.

Reggae also developed in the 1960s in Jamaica, but has a slower tempo. (Wikipedia) The "skank" is the sound created by guitars and keyboards and is a classic component of reggae music, and a variation of this sound is the "bubble". (Wikipedia) The bubble is more complex than the "skank", with pickup notes framing the "skank". (Wikipedia, personal experience.) Drums focus on the third beat of the measure and the bass lines are more syncopated. (Wikipedia) Track 10 "The Cure" has a drum beat emphasizing beat 3, keyboard playing the "bubble" and a common reggae chord progression, characteristics of reggae.

Ska has had three main periods of popularity: first wave starting in the 1960s, second wave, or "2 Tone" in the 1970s, and third wave in the 1980s and 1990s. Reggae started in the 1960s. Twelve Cents for Marvin formed in 1996, late enough to be influenced by ska and reggae. From the 1960s influence of first wave ska and reggae found in "Common Bond" and "The Cure" respectively to the faster and more aggressive "Shouting in the Dark", Twelve Cents for Marvin was influenced by ska and reggae in three songs from the 2006 album "Change."

Mechanics: A → errors aren't impeding readability. Length ok.

Works cited:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ska>, accessed 10/23/2012  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reggae>, accessed 10/23/2012  
Personal Experience: I am one of the founding members of Twelve Cents for Marvin, playing bass since 1996.