Late Midterm Exam: Meaning and Emotion in Music

NOTE: When citing sources/studies, be sure to provide a brief analysis of the studies you cite. For example, some things you can, but are not specifically required to discuss, include what are the limitations of those studies—ie. how does the narrow scope of the study impact the application of the findings? Are there any problems with the study design or is there certain features that are particularly effective. If so, why? Your discussion is not limited to these types of questions. The point is to see that you have effectively used research to justify your answer and that you show a clear understanding of those studies.

1. Why do we hear certain intervals as being pleasurable (consonant) vs. less pleasurable (dissonant)? In answering this question, which should be at least about one or two typed-pages, you should provide an answer as well as cite four specific studies (not the textbook) that address this question. (15 points)
2. What are some of the hypothesis on the origins of music? In your answer, which should be about a typed page or two, cite at least three specific studies or publications (not our textbook). Do not simply cite the study, go into some detail on the design or go into some details about the reasoning for the hypothesis. (15 points)
3. What some important roles that memory plays in listening to and performing music? While the textbook can be a starting point, you should cite and discuss at least four specific studies outside of the textbook that address this question. Again, this should be about one or two typed-pages. (15 points)
4. Discuss some traits that may be innate, developed, or a mixture of both in music acquisition in infants. While the textbook can be a starting point, you should cite and discuss at least four specific studies outside of the textbook that address this question—one or two typed-pages. In your answer some starting points may include overlap between language and music acquisition, critical periods, etc. (15 points)
5. Discuss some differences between how musicians and non-musicians perceive music from a neurological perspective. Cite and discuss at least three sources/studies—one or two pages. (15 points)
6. Given what we have covered thus far, how has this impacted how you think about the meaning of music you experience? This should be a paragraph or so (7 points)