

Guidelines for Test Taking

This guide lists the categories and point values and describes the way questions are asked on the Classical Festival Theory/History Test. It also includes a section on common mistakes. Consult the syllabus for details regarding requirements and information. This guide was updated in June of 2007.

Level I

- I. **Note Naming** (12 points). Identify the note written on the staff and write the letter name on the blank below it.
- II. **Counting** (4 points). Students are presented with a line of rhythm in a specific Time signature and asked to write the counting in for each note and rest. The counting should be in numerical sequence. (1 and 2 and etc.)
- III. **Time Signatures** (2 points). Tell what the top and bottom number of a time signature means
- IV. **Key Signatures** (6 points). Identify given key signatures and write the letter name on the line below it.
- V. **Scales** (9 points). Draw five finger patterns in major and minor using whole notes and accidentals
- VI. **Intervals** (4 points) Identify given intervals by quantity and write the number in the blank below each one.
- VII. **Chords** (12 points total) **Part A** (9 points): Student are presented with several examples of chords in one key and asked to circle the tonic chord in root position. **Part B** (3points): Write root position tonic chords using accidentals.
- VIII. **Vocabulary** (20 points total) **Part A:** (16 points) True/false statements about terms and symbols. **Part B:** (2 points) List tempos from slow to fast **Part C:** (2 points) List dynamic markings from soft to loud.

Level II

- I. **Note Naming** (5 points). Identify the note written on the staff and write the letter name on the line below it.
- II. **Counting** (6 points). Students are presented with a line of rhythm in a specific time signature and asked to write the counting in for each note and rest. The counting should be in numerical sequence (1 and 2 and etc.)
- III. **Key Signatures** (18 points total) Part A Draw the key signature (9 points) Part B: Identify the given key signature and write the name on the line below it. (9 points)
- IV. **Scales** (8 points). Write specific scales using whole notes and accidentals.
- V. **Intervals** (5 points) Identify given intervals by quantity and write the number on the line below it.
- VI. **Chords** (10 points) Students are presented with a key signature and roman numerals and asked to 1. Label the key and 2. Draw the chord.
- VII. **History** (4 points) Name the four style periods of music
- VIII. **Vocabulary** (8 points) Match correct symbol or definition with the term.

Level III

- I. **Counting** (9 points). Students are presented with a line of rhythm in a specific time signature and asked to write the counting below each note and rest. The counting should be in numerical sequence (1 and 2 and etc.)
- II. **Key Signatures** (8 points) Identify the given key signature in both major and minor and write the names on the lines below it.
- III. **Scales** (6 points) Write the notes of specific scales using key signatures
- IV. **Intervals** (7 points) Place the correct note above the written note to complete the interval.
- V. **Chords** (24 points total) **Part A:** Draw the key signature and write tonic chords in all positions. (6 points). **Part B:** Give the name and Roman numeral for the primary chords. (6 points) **Part C:** Students are presented with a key signature and asked to 1. Label the key 2. Write in the roman numerals for primary triads and draw the notes on the staff. (12 points)
- VI. **Cadences** (12 points total). **Part A:** Define plagal and authentic cadences. (4 points) **Part B:** Students are presented with a specific key signature and type of cadence to written. They are asked to 1. name the key, 2. Write in the roman numerals for the specific cadence 3. Draw the notes of the chords on the staff. (8 points)
- VII. **History** (8 points) Give the dates and name a composer for each style period
- VIII. **Vocabulary** (8 points) **Part A:** Define terms (5 points) **Part B:** Arrange tempos in order from slow to fast. (3 point)

Level IV

- I. **Counting** (11 points). Students are presented with a line of rhythm and asked to write the counting below each note and rest. Counting should be in numerical sequence (1 and 2 and etc.)
- II. **Key Signatures** (10 points). Draw specific key signatures on a provided staff.
- III. **Scales** (3 points total) **Part A:** Write the notes of a specific scale using key signatures. (2 points) **Part B:** Write an ascending chromatic scale starting on a given pitch. (1 point)
- IV. **Intervals** (15 points). Place the note above the given note to complete the correct quantity and quality of the interval.
- V. **Chords** (22 points total) **Part A:** Draw a Major, minor, diminished and augmented chord from a given bass note. (8 points) **Part B:** Students are presented with a specific key and asked 1. Draw the key signature 2. Label the roman numerals for primary triads 3. Draw the notes of the chord. (14 points)
- VI. **Cadences** (15 points total). **Part A:** Analysis: Write the key, analyze the root position chords with roman numerals and identify the type of cadence (9 points) **Part B:** Rewrite the examples of part A using common tones and inversions. (6 points)

- VII. **History** (12 points) Name a feature, a composer and a fact about the composer for each style period.
- VIII. **Vocabulary** (14 points total). **Part A:** Define terms (3 points) **Part B:** Fill in the blank (5 points) **Part C** arrange tempos from slow to fast (3 points) **Part D:** Analysis of texture (3 points)

Level V

- I. **Notes** (4 points). Draw 2 enharmonic notes for each given note.
- II. **Counting** (5 points) Students are presented with a line of rhythm in a specific time signature and asked to write the counting in below each note and rest. Counting should be in numerical sequence (1 and 2 and etc.)
- III. **Meter** (8 points). Define simple and compound meter and give examples of time signatures for each type of meter (simple duple, compound triple etc.)
- IV. **Scales** (14 points total) **Part A:** Draw the notes of specific scales using key signatures. Draw a descending chromatic scale from a given pitch (6 points). **Part B:** Write the degree name and roman numeral for secondary chords in major keys. (8 points)
- V. **Intervals** (20 points total) **Part A:** Give the quality and quantity for each written interval (10 points). **Part B:** Draw the correct note above the given note to complete the interval. (10 points)
- VI. **Chords** (18 points total) **Part A:** Write V7 chords in root and 1st inversion Label the key and write the chords for each example. (6 points) **Part B:** Analysis of triads. Identify the key, the chord and the inversion for each example. (12 points)
- VII. **Cadences** (9 points) Write common tone cadences in specific keys, write the chords that are asked for specific cadences (authentic, plagal and half.)
- VIII. **Vocabulary** (11 points) **Part A:** Define terms (5 points) **Part B:** Fill in the blank regarding sonata allegro form (3 points) **Part C:** Identify musical examples by repetition, sequence and imitation (3 points)
- IX. **History** (16 points) For each style period list: A feature, a composer, a fact about the composer and a composition by the composer.

Level VI

- I. **Counting** (14 points total) **Part A:** Fill in the blanks regarding simple and compound meter.(6 points) **Part B:** Complete examples of measures by using one note. (4 points) **Part C:** Complete examples of measure by using one rest (4 points)
- II. **Key Signatures** (4 points) Draw the 7 sharps and 7 flats on the grand staff
- III. **Scales** (3 points). Draw the notes of specific scales using key signatures
- IV. **Intervals** (8 points) Give the quality and quantity for each written interval.
- V. **Chords** (12 points total) **Part A:** Analysis of triads by roman numeral and position (6 points) **Part B:** Analysis of V7 chords by roman numeral and position. (6 points)

- VI. **Cadences** (9 points) Write common tone authentic, plagal and half cadences and label the roman numerals.
- VII. **History** (24 points) **Part A:** For each style period List dates, and 2 features of the period. (12 points) **Part B:** For specific composers: list the period, a fact and a composition. (12 points)
- VIII. **Vocabulary** (14 points total) **Part A:** Define terms (6 points) **Part B:** Fill in the blanks regarding sonata allegro form.(4 points) **Part C** Arrange tempos from slow to fast (4 points)

Level VII

- I. **Counting** (3 points) Write the counting on the line beneath the staff
- II. **Key Signatures** (2 points) Draw the 7 sharps and 7 flats on the grand staff
- III. **Scales** (4 points). Draw the key signature and the notes of the scale.
- IV. **Intervals** (5 points) Identify each interval by quality and quantity.
- V. **Chords** (9 points total) **Part A** Writing V7 chords in specific keys and inversions. (4 points) **Part B** Analysis of triads in specific keys by roman numeral and figured bass notation for all positions. (5 points)
- VI. **Cadences.** (12 points). Draw cadences in specific keys from given roman numerals. Identify the type of cadence.
- VII. **History** (24 points). For specific composers: list the period, a fact about the composer and a composition by the composer.
- VIII. **Vocabulary** (20 points total) **Part A:** Define terms (10 points) **Part B:** Fill in the blanks (7 points) **Part C:** Arrange tempos from slow to fast (3 points)

Level VIII

- I. **Time Signatures** (4 points). Write the time signature for each example.
- II. **Scales** (4 points) Write specific scales using key signatures
- III. **Chords** (32 points total) **Part A** Analysis of triads Define key, give roman numeral and figured bass notation for all positions (24 points) **Part B** Draw V7 chords in specific keys in all positions. (8 points)
- IV. **History** (15 points) For specific composers List style period, a feature of that period, a fact about the composer and a composition by the composer.
- V. **Vocabulary** (14 points) Define terms.

Level IX

- I. **Rhythm** (9 points) Identify the meter, add bar lines and write the counting in for each example.
- II. **Scales** (3 points) Write the notes of each scale using key signatures.
- III. **Chords** (40 points total) **Part A** Chord writing. Write the notes and draw the key signatures for triads and V7 chords in all positions. (16 points) **Part B:** Analysis of triads and V7 chords in all positions using roman numerals and figured bass notation. (24 points)

- IV. **Half Steps** (6 points) Write chromatic and diatonic half steps from given notes.
- V. **History** (40 point total) **Part A:** For each period: List 5 features (20 points)
Part B: For each period: list 5 composers. (20 points)
- VI. **Vocabulary** (19 points) Define terms

Level X

- I. **Scales** (6 points total) **Part A:** Write examples of all types of scales and modes(4 points) **Part B:** Identify specific scales and modes (2 points)
 - II. **Chords** (5 points) Write all types of 7th chords from lead sheet notation.
 - III. **Vocabulary** (20 points total) **Part A:** Score analysis of compositional devices (3 points) **Part B:** Define terms (17 points)
- Essay** (80 points) See web site for specific details. This portion of the Level X Test is due with the application.

Common Mistakes in Test Taking

Not following directions

Not checking the clef sign

Drawing key signatures in wrong order or placing in the wrong octave.

Penmanship

Using the wrong upper or lower case for Major and minor

Forgetting to raise the 7th degree in harmonic minor examples

Some Strategies

Teach your student to use the keyboard drawing that they will receive in the exam.

Have them write out the circle of fifths for their level. They may write this out on the exam if they wish.

Have them write out charts of chord qualities. They may write this out on the exam if they wish. (Depending on level)

Have them write out the 7 sharps and 7 flats on the grand staff. They may write this out on the test if they wish (Depending on level)

Teach your students to write notes and accidentals neatly and large so they are readable.

Make up practice tests

Review concepts throughout the year.

Run off the history and vocabulary section of the syllabus for them.

Tell your student to give themselves plenty of time to take the exam.