



AP Music Theory

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AP Music Theory

AP Music Theory is a rigorous college-level course for students who are interested in delving deeper into their musical studies. A student who is persistent, organized, highly motivated, has a strong work ethic and enthusiastic about music, is likely to succeed in this class. The coursework that they will complete is equivalent to the first year of college music theory. Successful completion of Music Theory I, as well as membership in performing ensembles is strongly encouraged.

AP Music Theory is a full-year course that meets every day. Class periods will consist of lecture and written work as well as aural skills, sight singing, dictation and score analysis. Each class period, students are expected to participate in classroom discussions and demonstrations. In addition to completing their homework, there will be a variety of activities they will be responsible for in class. It is my goal to always maintain an environment that the students feel comfortable demonstrating and sharing their accomplishments in. Students will be expected to utilize technology both in school and out. This technology will reinforce the concepts and skills taught in class. The ultimate goal is for the student to complete the course with a wealth of knowledge that they will take to their future studies and will assist them in the successful completion of the AP Music Theory Exam in May.

Materials Needed:

Three Ring Binder & Mechanical Pencils

Grading:

Quizzes/Tests - 35%

Homework/Classwork - 25%

Participation - 40%

A=93-100 (Excellent); B=92-85 (Good); C=77-84 (Satisfactory); D=70-76 (Poor); F=0-65 (Failing)

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STRUCTURE OF THE EXAM

Section I: Multiple Choice | 75 Questions | ~1 hour and 20 minutes | 45% of Exam Score

- **Questions based on aural stimulus** test your listening skills and knowledge about theory in the context of musical scores.
~Aural skills, melodic dictation, identification of isolated pitch and rhythmic patterns, score analysis.
- **Questions based on analysis of printed music scores** emphasize knowledge of score analysis.
~Harmonic & melodic organization, rhythmic/metric organization, texture, musical terminology, notational & compositional skills.

Section II: Free-Response | 7 written questions and 2 sight-singing exercises | ~1 hour and 20 minutes | 55% of Exam Score

- **Written Portion:** ~1 hour and 10 minutes
~4 questions on dictation
~2 questions on part-writing
~1 question on composition of a bass line
- **Sight-Singing Portion:** ~10 minutes
~Sing and record two brief, primarily diatonic melodies (of about four to eight bars)
~You will have 75 seconds to examine and practice each melody and 30 seconds to perform it.
~You may sing the melody beginning with the given starting pitch or another pitch in a range that is more comfortable.

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TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Take time over the summer to review and practice the following materials from Music Theory I:

- ~Rhythms (Counting Simple & Compound Meter)
- ~Interval Construction, Identification and Qualities
- ~Triad & Seventh Chord Construction,
- ~Identification and Inversions
- ~Major & Minor Circle of Fifths
- ~Major & Minor Scales
- ~Common Chord Progressions with Smooth Voice Leading
- ~Transposition & Arranging
- ~Ear Training & Dictation

Work DAILY, in “brief bursts” (3-10 minutes) on the skills you feel the least confident in.

~The websites below are excellent free resources to help improve the skills needed to master the concepts covered in the course and on the AP exam.

www.teoria.com

www.tonedear.com

<http://www.pitchimprover.com>

<http://www.earbeater.com/online-ear-training>

<https://tonesavvy.com/>

Take AP Music Theory with the goal to “learn for life.” You will get far more out of it than if your soul purpose is to get a specific score on one exam.