

School of Music, West Texas A&M University

Music Theory Diagnostic Exam Preparatory Information

This guide is meant to help incoming graduate students prepare for the Music Theory Placement Evaluation. This evaluation is meant to ensure that students are prepared to take courses involving theory and analysis at the graduate level, and that they have sufficient experience in this area on which to build for the required Oral Exams.

I. Analysis:

- You will be given one musical score and asked to answer analytic questions. These questions will cover some or all of the following:
 - Harmonic (Roman numeral) analysis
 - Form
 - Non Chord Tones
 - Cadences

Knowledge of the following terms will also help you greatly in the analysis portion of the evaluation.

Music Theory Diagnostic Evaluation - Terms

HARMONY AND VOICE LEADING

tonic, dominant,
subdominant, mediant
submediant, supertonic
leading tone, subtonic
secondary dominant
secondary function
tonicization
modulation
mixture
all 6/4 chord types
Neapolitan Sixth
All +6th chords
sonority
pivot chord
Enharmonically equivalent
parallel keys
relative keys
closely related keys
chromatic mediants
distantly related keys
parallel fifths and octaves

SCALES

all modes
major and all minor
scales
whole-tone scale
octatonic scale
pentatonic scale

RHYTHM

simple meter
compound meter
harmonic rhythm
hemiola
syncopation
anacrusis
elision
suspension
retardation
appoggiatura
escape tone

FORM

perfect authentic cadence
imperfect authentic cadence
half cadence
plagal cadence
deceptive cadence
phrase
motive
binary form
ternary form
strophic
rondo
sonata form
fugue
fugato
key relations