



AP[®] Music Theory

Course and Exam Description Clarifications and Corrections

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus. We commit to supporting educators and communities in their efforts to make AP courses widely available, advancing students in their plans for college and careers.

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To be Implemented for Fall 2026

General Clarifications

Two Essential Knowledge statements have been updated to align with changes in the field:

- Essential Knowledge Statement PIT-2.M.5 adds "upward-resolving suspension" as a synonym for "retardation." The EK now reads, "Common classifications of nonharmonic tones also include suspension (including rearticulated suspension and chain of suspensions) and upward-resolving suspension (retardation)."
- Essential Knowledge Statement DES-1.A.2 removes "technical" and "casual" to describe different types of texture terminology. No new texture terminology has been added.

Exam Information Clarifications and Corrections

This section provides updates to the Exam Information section. Formatting changes and minor language clarifications were made to the scoring guidelines on pp. 232-239. Other corrections and clarifications are outlined below.

EXAM OVERVIEW

The Exam Overview chart on pp. 220 has been updated to reflect that the exam will use Bluebook instead of CDs to deliver audio. The overall timing and content of the exam have not changed.

Sample questions on pp. 225-230 have been updated to reflect the wording of question directions in Bluebook and digital hybrid FRQ booklets. Some questions have been revised to better align with course content and more accurately reflect the style of questions on the exam.