2020 Exam Sample Questions

AP MUSIC THEORY

2020 Sample Question 1
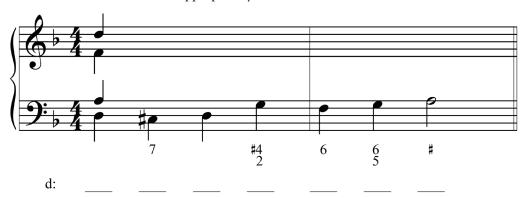
Allotted time: 25 minutes (+ 5 minutes to submit)

(a) Part-writing from figured bass

Instructions: Before you begin, accurately copy the following information from the question prompt below onto your prepared answer sheet:

- the key signature
- the opening chord
- the bass line
- all figures below the notes in the bass line

Before starting the assignment, double check that you have completely and accurately copied the question prompt. Copying errors may adversely affect your score.

Assignment: Realize the figured bass below in four voices, following traditional eighteenth-century voice-leading procedures. Continue logically from the spacing of the first chord. Do not add embellishments. On the blank below each chord, write the Roman numeral that appropriately indicates harmonic function.
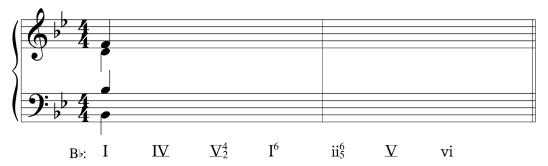
(b) Part-writing from Roman numerals

Instructions: Before you begin, accurately copy the following information from the question prompt below onto your prepared answer sheet:

- the key signature
- the opening chord
- all Roman and Arabic numerals shown below the staff

Before starting the assignment, double check that you have completely and accurately copied the question prompt. Copying errors may adversely affect your score.

Assignment: Realize the following progression in four voices, following eighteenth-century voice-leading procedures. Continue logically from the spacing of the first chord. Do not add embellishments. Use only quarter and half notes.

B♭:   I   IV   V$^4_2$ I^6 ii$^6_5$ V   vi

2020 Sample Question 2

Allotted time: 15 minutes (+ 5 minutes to submit)

Sight-singing

Assignment: For each melody given, sing the pitches and rhythms accurately while keeping a steady tempo.

Procedure: You have 15 minutes to practice, record, and check that both melodies are recorded in a single file. For each melody, choose a starting pitch in a key that is comfortable.

Your performance:

- You may sing note names (*C-D-E*), syllable names (*do-re-mi*), scale-degree numbers (*1-2-3*), or a neutral syllable (for example, *ta-ta-ta*).
- You may transpose the melody to a key that is comfortable.
- You may play a starting pitch before performing each melody. You may **NOT** use any device (for example, a metronome or a musical instrument) to assist you *during* your performance.
- You may pause your recording after stating your AP ID number, and between performing the first and second melody (see recording instructions below). You may **NOT** pause your recording *during* your performance. You may **NOT** use any software to alter or edit your performance.
- You will be evaluated on rhythmic accuracy, pitch accuracy (relative to your chosen tonic), and continuity (maintaining a steady tempo). You may start over if you need to, but there will be a deduction from your score. You will not be evaluated on the quality of your singing voice.

Recording instructions: You must record both melodies in the same audio file. Only one audio file upload will be accepted. When you are ready to record your first melody:

- Start your recording device and state your AP ID number. Then, press pause.
- Once you are ready to begin, press record to resume recording in the same audio file. Perform the first melody and then press pause.
- Once you are ready to record the second melody, press record to resume recording in the same audio file. Once you finish performing the second melody, press stop.
- Save your audio file in an approved format (.m4a, .mp3, .wav, or .ogg) and upload your file.

(a) Melody 1

(b) Melody 2