
AP[®] Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Free Response Question 3

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

Question 3: Harmonic Dictation

24 points

Bb: I V₄⁶ I⁶ ii⁶ V V₂⁴ I⁶ V I

I. Pitches

- A. Award 1 point for each correctly notated pitch. Do not consider duration. (An accidental placed *after* the notehead is not considered correct notation.) **1 point per pitch (max 16)**
- B. Award full credit for octave transpositions of the correct bass pitch. (Octave transpositions of soprano pitches are *not* allowed.)
- C. No enharmonic equivalents are allowed.

II. Chord Symbols

- A. Award 1 point for each chord symbol correct in both Roman and Arabic numerals. **1 point per complete chord symbol (max 8)**
- B. Award ½ point for each correct Roman numeral that has incorrect or missing Arabic numerals.
- C. Accept the correct Roman numeral regardless of its case.
- D. Award no credit if an accidental is placed before a Roman numeral.
- E. The passing six-four may be correctly labeled as shown above. Also award 1 point for the labels “P₄⁶” or “passing₄⁶” for the passing six-four. Award ½ point for “P” with no figures or incorrect figures.
- F. When a chord with the same Roman numeral occurs twice in succession (e.g., I - I⁶ or V - V₂⁴), if the Roman numeral below the first occurrence of the chord is correct, then the Roman numeral below the second occurrence of the chord is also considered correct if figures are written with no Roman numeral or if a dash is written. In order to receive full credit, the correct Arabic numeral(s) must be written below the second occurrence of the chord.

III. Rounding Fractional Scores

Half-point totals round up with one exception: A total score of 23½ rounds down to 23.

IV. Scores with Additional Meaning

0 This score is used for a response that represents an unsuccessful attempt to answer the question or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.

NR Reserved for blank responses.

Total for question 3

24 points

Record points for soprano pitches in row 1, for bass pitches in row 2, and for chord symbols in row 3.

B \flat : I V₄⁶ I⁶ ii⁶ V V₂⁴ I⁶ V I

Soprano pitches:									
Bass pitches:									
Chord symbols:									

Sample 3A

Write your response to **QUESTION 3** on this page.

Questions 3-4

For each of these questions, you will hear a harmonic progression in four parts. In each case, the progression will be played four times. There will be a pause of 30 seconds after the first playing and a one-minute pause after each subsequent playing. For each question, please do the following.


- (a) Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.
- (b) Make sure that any accidentals you use are appropriate for the key signature provided.
- (c) On the blanks provided under the staff, write the Roman and Arabic numerals that indicate the chords and their inversions. (Each blank should contain at least a Roman numeral, a figure, or a dash.)
- (d) Make sure to align your notes with the blanks provided.

Question 3. Before listening to the first playing, please look at the staff below. Notice that there are nine chords in the progression; the soprano and bass notes and the Roman numeral of the first chord are given.

Now listen to the progression for the first time and begin working. 



Bb: I Vij I^b _ V _ I^b V I

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a second time. 

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a third time. 

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a final time. 

Write your response to **QUESTION 3** on this page.

Questions 3-4

For each of these questions, you will hear a harmonic progression in four parts. In each case, the progression will be played four times. There will be a pause of 30 seconds after the first playing and a one-minute pause after each subsequent playing. For each question, please do the following.

- (a) Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.
- (b) Make sure that any accidentals you use are appropriate for the key signature provided.
- (c) On the blanks provided under the staff, write the Roman and Arabic numerals that indicate the chords and their inversions. (Each blank should contain at least a Roman numeral, a figure, or a dash.)
- (d) Make sure to align your notes with the blanks provided.

Question 3. Before listening to the first playing, please look at the staff below. Notice that there are nine chords in the progression; the soprano and bass notes and the Roman numeral of the first chord are given.

Now listen to the progression for the first time and begin working. 



Bb: I ii I⁶ IV V⁷ I⁴ V⁷ I

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a second time. 

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a third time. 

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a final time. 

Write your response to **QUESTION 3** on this page.

Questions 3-4

For each of these questions, you will hear a harmonic progression in four parts. In each case, the progression will be played four times. There will be a pause of 30 seconds after the first playing and a one-minute pause after each subsequent playing. For each question, please do the following.

- (a) Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.
- (b) Make sure that any accidentals you use are appropriate for the key signature provided.
- (c) On the blanks provided under the staff, write the Roman and Arabic numerals that indicate the chords and their inversions. (Each blank should contain at least a Roman numeral, a figure, or a dash.)
- (d) Make sure to align your notes with the blanks provided.


Question 3. Before listening to the first playing, please look at the staff below. Notice that there are nine chords in the progression; the soprano and bass notes and the Roman numeral of the first chord are given.

Now listen to the progression for the first time and begin working. 



Bb: I _____ I _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ II

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a second time. 

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a third time. 

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a final time. 

Question 3

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

This question assessed students' ability to:

- hear a four-part progression in a major key and notate the outer voices;
- provide the correct Roman numeral analysis of the chords;
- demonstrate a knowledge of common chord progressions, including a passing six-four;
- hear and notate triads in root position and in inversion and a seventh chord in third inversion; and
- hear, notate, and analyze an imperfect authentic cadence.

Sample: 3A

Score: 21

This represents a very good response. The student correctly notates all of the soprano pitches and all of the bass pitches; 16 points were awarded. The Roman numeral analysis for chords three, five, seven, eight, and nine is correct in both Roman numerals and Arabic figures; 5 points were awarded. The Roman numeral for chord 2 is incorrect. Chords 4 and 6 were left blank. (Soprano: 8; Bass: 8; Roman numerals: 5; Total = 21)

Sample: 3B

Score: 13

This represents a fair response. The student correctly notates two of the soprano pitches and eight of the bass pitches; 10 points were awarded. The Roman numeral analysis for chords two and nine is correct in both Roman numerals and Arabic figures; 2 points were awarded. The Roman numerals for chord seven are correct but the Arabic figure is incorrect. The Roman numeral for chord eight is correct but the Arabic figure is incorrect; $\frac{1}{2}$ point was awarded for each. (Soprano: 2; Bass: 8; Roman numerals: 3; Total = 13)

Sample: 3C

Score: 5

This represents a poor response. The student correctly notates four of the soprano pitches; 4 points were awarded. None of the bass pitches is notated correctly; 0 points were awarded. The Roman numeral in chord three is correct but the Arabic figure is missing; $\frac{1}{2}$ point was awarded. Soprano: 4; Bass: 0; Roman numerals: $\frac{1}{2}$; Total = $4\frac{1}{2}$ rounded up to 5.