



AP[®] Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Free-Response Question 3

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
- ☒ **Student Samples**
- ☒ **Scoring Commentary**

Question 3: Harmonic Dictation

24 points

c: $\underline{i}$ $\underline{iv}_4^6$ $\underline{i}$ $\underline{V}^7$ $\underline{VI}$ $\underline{ii}^o6$ $\underline{i}_4^6$ $\underline{V}$ $\underline{i}$

OR $\underline{V}_4^6 = \frac{5}{3}$

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.)
- 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.

**1 point per
pitch
(max 16)**

II. Chord Symbols

- A. Award 1 point for each chord symbol correct in both Roman and Arabic numerals.
- B. Award $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 neighboring or pedal six-four may be correctly labeled as shown above. Also award 1 point for the labels “N $\frac{6}{4}$,” “Ped $\frac{6}{4}$,” “N,” or “Ped.”
- F. The cadential six-four may be correctly labeled as shown above. Also, give full credit for the labels “Cad $\frac{6}{4}$ ” or “C $\frac{6}{4}$ ” for the antepenultimate chord. If the Roman numeral of the antepenultimate chord is $\underline{V}$, the space below the penultimate chord should contain a figure, a dash, or a $\underline{V}$ in order for the antepenultimate chord to receive any credit. If the space below the penultimate chord is blank and follows $\underline{V}$, no credit is awarded for the penultimate or the antepenultimate chord symbol.

**1 point per
complete
chord symbol
(max 8)**

Ex.	$\underline{V}_4^{(8)}$	$\frac{7}{(5)}$	$\underline{V}_4^6$	$\frac{5}{3}$	$\underline{V}_4^6$	$\underline{V}$	$\underline{V}$	$\underline{V}_4^6$	$\underline{I}$	$\underline{I}_4^6$	$\underline{IV}$	$\underline{V}_4^{(6)}$	$\underline{IV}$	$\underline{V}$	—	$\underline{V}$	$\underline{V}^7$	$\underline{V}_4^6$	$\underline{V}_4^6$
Pts.	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

III. Rounding Fractional Scores

Half-point totals round up with one exception: A total score of $23\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

c: i iv₄⁶ i V⁷ VI ii^{o6} i₄⁶ V i

OR V₄⁶ = $\frac{5}{3}$

										Total
Soprano pitches:										
Bass pitches:										
Chord symbols:										

Question 3

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.

- Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.
- Make sure that any accidentals you use are appropriate for the key signature provided.
- 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.)
- 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. 



c: i iv⁴ i V VI ii⁴ I⁴ 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. 

Question 3

Write your response to QUESTION 3 on this page.

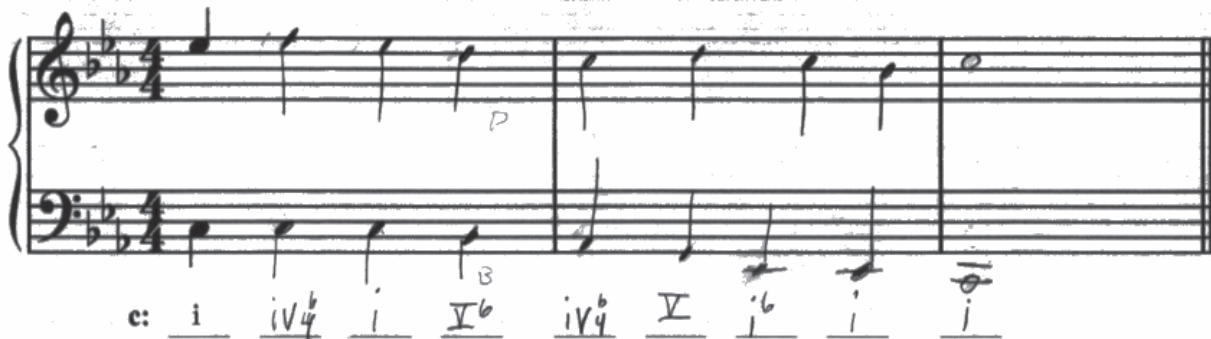
Questions 3-4

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.

- Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.
- Make sure that any accidentals you use are appropriate for the key signature provided.
- 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.)
- 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. 



c: i iv_4^b i I^b iv_4^b V i^b i 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. 

B C D E F G A
G A B C D E F
E F G A B C D
C D E F G A B
i ii III IV V VI VII

Use a pencil only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Question 3

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.

- Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.
- Make sure that any accidentals you use are appropriate for the key signature provided.
- 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.)
- 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. 



c: i i^b iv Vⁱ ii^o V i V^b 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. 

Question 3

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

Overview

This question assessed students’:

- ability to aurally distinguish the bass and soprano lines of a four-voice harmonic progression;
- knowledge of common chord progressions;
- notation skills;
- knowledge of and ability to differentiate cadences;
- knowledge of and ability to hear chord inversions; and
- ability to hear differing chord qualities.

Sample: 3A

Score: 23

This represents an excellent response. All eight soprano pitches and all of the bass pitches are notated correctly; 16 points were awarded for the soprano and bass lines. The Roman numerals and Arabic figures are correct for chords two, three, five, six, seven, eight, and nine; 7 points were awarded. The Roman numeral for chord four is correct but is missing an Arabic figure; $\frac{1}{2}$ point was awarded. $7\frac{1}{2}$ points were awarded for the Roman numerals. (Soprano: 8; Bass: 8; Roman numerals: $7\frac{1}{2}$; Total = $23\frac{1}{2}$, rounding down to 23)

Sample: 3B

Score: 15

This represents a fair response. Seven of the soprano pitches are correct; 7 points were awarded. The response contains four correctly notated bass pitches; 4 points were awarded. The Roman numerals for chords five, six, and eight are incorrect; 0 points were awarded. Chords two, three, and nine are correct in both Roman numerals and Arabic figures; 3 points were awarded. The Roman numerals for chords four and seven are correct, but the Arabic figure is missing; 1 point was awarded; 4 points were awarded for Roman numerals. (Soprano: 7; Bass: 4; Roman numerals: 4; Total = 15)

Sample: 3C

Score: 3

This represents a poor response. None of the soprano pitches are correct; 0 points were awarded. One of the bass pitches is correctly notated; 1 point was awarded. The Roman numerals for chords two, three, four, five, and six are incorrect; 0 points were awarded. The Roman numeral and Arabic figure are correct for chord nine; 1 point was awarded. The Roman numerals for chords seven and eight are correct, but the Arabic figure is incorrect; 1 point was awarded. (Soprano: 0; Bass: 1; Roman numerals: 2; Total = 3)