



AP[®] Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Free-Response Question 4

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

Question 4: Harmonic Dictation**24 points**

D: I V⁶ vi V₂⁴/ii ii⁶ V vi ii_s⁶ V

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 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. Secondary functions must be indicated with any symbol that means “of” or “applied.” Accept any symbol that means “of” or “applied” for chord four, e.g.,:
 V_2^4/ii , $[V_2^4]$, $V_2^4 \rightarrow ii$, V_2^4 of ii, etc.

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

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.
- The dash is reserved for blank responses.

Total for question 4**24 points**

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

Handwritten musical score in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two staves: a treble staff (soprano) and a bass staff (bass). The first measure is boxed with a dashed line. Below the staves, the chord symbols are written: D: I, V⁶, vi, V₂⁴/ii, ii⁶, V, vi, ii₅⁶, V.

										Total
Soprano pitches:										
Bass pitches:										
Chord symbols:										

Question 4

Write your response to **QUESTION 4** on this page.

Question 4. 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.

Remember to notate only the soprano and bass voices and to write, in every blank, the numerals indicating the chords and their inversions.

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



D: I V^6 yi $V^{4/ii}$ ii^6 V vi IV V

The progression for **Question 4** will now be played a second time. 

The progression for **Question 4** will now be played a third time. 

The progression for **Question 4** will now be played a final time. 

The remaining free-response questions for the Music Theory exam are without audio prompts. You may answer them in the order you choose. You have a total of 45 minutes to complete free-response questions 5–7. A suggested time for each question is printed in your exam booklet. Read the three questions carefully and use your time effectively. Now turn the page and begin working.

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



D: I II⁶ Vi IV^{#5} IV II IV^{#5} II Vi

The progression for Question 4 will now be played a second time. 

The progression for Question 4 will now be played a third time. 

The progression for Question 4 will now be played a final time. 

C	D	E	F	G	A	B
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
F	G	A	B	C	D	E
D	E	F	G	A	B	C
D: I	ii	III	IV	II	Vi	Vii°

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Question 4. 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.

Remember to notate only the soprano and bass voices and to write, in every blank, the numerals indicating the chords and their inversions.

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



D: I II i IV V ii I V VI

The progression for Question 4 will now be played a second time. 

The progression for Question 4 will now be played a third time. 

The progression for Question 4 will now be played a final time. 

ABCDEFG
FGAB CDE
DEFG ABC

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Question 4

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 cadences;
- knowledge of chord quality and inversions; and
- knowledge of secondary function chords.

Sample: 4A

Score: 23

This represents a good response. All soprano and bass pitches are notated correctly; 16 points were awarded for the soprano and bass lines. The Roman numeral and Arabic figure for chord eight are incorrect; 0 points were awarded. The Roman numerals and Arabic figures are correct for chords two, three, five, six, seven, and nine; 6 points were awarded. The Roman numeral for chord four is correct, but the Arabic figure is incorrect; $\frac{1}{2}$ point was awarded. (Soprano: 8; Bass: 8; Roman numerals: $6\frac{1}{2}$; Total = $22\frac{1}{2}$, which rounds up to 23)

Sample: 4B

Score: 13

This represents a fair response. Four of the soprano pitches are correct; 4 points were awarded. The response contains six correctly notated bass pitches; 6 points were awarded. The Roman numerals for chords four, five, seven, eight, and nine are incorrect, 0 points were awarded. The Roman numerals and Arabic figures are correct for chords two, three, and six; 3 points were awarded. (Soprano: 4; Bass: 6; Roman numerals: 3; Total = 13)

Sample: 4C

Score: 2

This represents a poor response. One soprano pitch is correct; 1 point was awarded. None of the bass pitches are correct; 0 points were awarded. The Roman numeral for chord two is correct but is missing an Arabic figure; $\frac{1}{2}$ point was awarded. (Soprano: 1; Bass 0; Roman numerals: $\frac{1}{2}$; Total = $1\frac{1}{2}$, rounding up to 2)