
AP[®] Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Free-Response Question S2

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Sight Singing Question 2**9 points****General Instructions**

Use EITHER the regular scoring guide OR an alternate scoring guide, whichever gives the higher score.

Moderato

I. Regular Scoring Guide

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------|
| A. | Score 1 point for each segment (i.e., each half-measure) correct in pitch, rhythm, and tempo. | 1 point each
(max 8) |
| B. | If at least one segment is correct using I.A. , add 1 point for a complete response that has no hesitations or restarts (= overall flow; the “flow” point). | 1 point |
| C. | Record any score of 4 or higher. | |
| D. | If the score is less than 4, try an alternate scoring guide. | |

II. Alternate Scoring Guides (Do not award the “flow” point in the alternate scoring guide.)

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| A. | If a student sings many of the pitches correctly but is consistently inaccurate in rhythm, you may determine holistically to award up to 4 points for pitch. | Max 4 |
| | OR | |
| B. | If a student is accurate or nearly accurate with respect to rhythm but is consistently inaccurate in pitches, you may determine holistically to award up to 2 points for rhythm. | Max 2 |

III. Scores with Additional Meaning

- 1** This score may be given to a response that has *two or more* redeeming qualities (e.g., retention of the tonic pitch and singing the melody with a correct contour; persistence alone is *not* a redeeming quality).
- 0** This score is used for a response that has no redeeming qualities (or only one) or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.
- NR** This score (no response) is used for blank responses (including spoken AP number but no response).

IV. Scoring Notes

- A. If a student restarts, score the last *complete* response, but do *not* award the “flow” point. If none are complete, score the last response.
- B. Score from the tonic established by the student. However, credit any exactly transposed segment approached by the correct interval. In other words, *any segment entered correctly (by the correct interval) is eligible for the point.*
- C. The last note may be eligible for the point if the student returns to the original tonic, even if the preceding segments have been transposed, and the original tonic is not approached correctly.
- D. If the student changes tempo and continues in the new tempo, do not credit the segment where the change occurs, but credit the ensuing segments.
- E. The last note must be held at least to the attack of the final eighth note of measure 4 and may not continue more than one eighth note beyond the bar line for that segment to receive credit.
- F. Ignore any use (correct or incorrect) of syllables, letter names, or numbers, as well as expletives, giggles, etc.
- G. If you try both regular and alternate guides, record the higher of the scores.
- H. Scores from one guide may *not* be combined with those of another.
- I. Listen beyond the end of the performance to ensure that the student made no additional response.

Total for question S2 (Regular Scoring Guide)

9 points

For regular scoring, record points for correct segments and flow in the boxes below. For alternate scoring, award points holistically.

Moderato

Segment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Flow	Total
Regular Scoring										

Question 2

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

Overview

This question assessed students’:

- ability to perform stepwise contours and common skips and leaps such as 3rds, P4s, and P5s;
- ability to apply music reading skills to melodic and rhythmic performance at sight;
- knowledge of treble clef, key signature, and accidentals;
- ability to sing in the minor mode;
- treatment of leading tone and chromatic alterations in minor;
- ability to maintain the same compound duple meter throughout their performance;
- ability to sing with a steady tempo; and
- retention of tonic throughout their performance.

Sample: S2A

Score: 9

This represents an excellent response. Segments one through eight are sung with the correct pitch and rhythm. 1 point was awarded for each correct segment. There are no hesitations or restarts, so the flow point was also awarded. Scoring by segments was 1111+1111+1=9.

Sample: S2B

Score: 5

This represents a fair response. Because segments one, two, three, and eight are sung correctly in both pitch and rhythm, 4 points were awarded using the regular Scoring Guide. Segments four through seven contain errors in pitch (but not rhythm). Because there are no hesitations or restarts, the flow point was awarded. Scoring by segments was: 1110+0001+1=5

Sample: S2C

Score: 2

This represents a poor response. No segments are sung correctly in both pitch and rhythm. Because the score was lower than 4 using the regular Scoring Guide, the Alternate Scoring Guides for pitch and rhythm were consulted. The rhythm is nearly accurately performed throughout and therefore the response holistically earned 2 points using the Alternate Scoring Guide for rhythm (II.B.). The flow point was not awarded when using the Alternate Scoring Guide.