
AP[®] Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

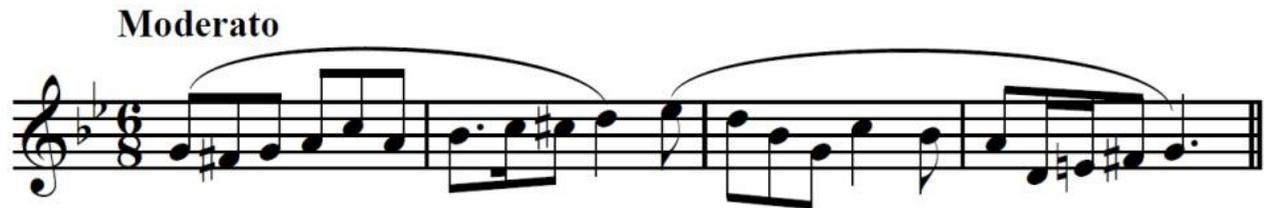
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Free-Response Question 2

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

Question 2: Melodic Dictation**9 points****General Instructions**

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

**I. Regular Scoring Guide**

- A.** Award 1 point for each segment correct in **both** pitch and rhythm. **1 point each**
(max 8)
- A “segment” is any half measure of the original melody, even if occurring over a bar line or beginning on a metrically weak pulse. (In compound duple meter, a segment is any set of three continuous eighth-note beats.)
 - To receive credit, a segment must not overlap with any other segment receiving credit.
 - Do not subdivide a note to identify a segment.
 - To receive credit, a segment *may* be metrically shifted up to one segment before or after its original position.
 - Give no credit for the final dotted quarter note if notation of pitches continues thereafter.
- B.** If at least one segment is correct in pitch and rhythm, award 1 additional point to the total. For example, a response that is correct in all aspects receives a score of 8 + 1, or 9. Exception: Do not award a 9 unless all measures have the correct number of beats. Award an 8 (i.e., do not award the additional point) to an otherwise perfect response that does not use bar lines correctly. **1 point**
- C.** Record any score of 4 or higher and move on to the next response.
- D.** If after applying I.A. and I.B. the score is less than 4, try an alternate scoring guide.

II. Alternate Scoring Guides (Do not award the additional point to the total.)

- A.** Award $\frac{1}{2}$ point per segment of correct pitches. (Maximum of 4 points) **$\frac{1}{2}$ point each**
(max 4)
- OR**
- B.** Award $\frac{1}{4}$ point per segment of correct rhythm. (Maximum of 2 points) **$\frac{1}{4}$ point each**
(max 2)

Rounding Fractional Scores

- Total scores of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ round up to the closest integer. Total scores of $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$ round down to the closest integer.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ points should be rounded to the closest integer.

III. Scores with Additional Meaning

- 1** This score may also be used for a response that does not have one segment correct in both pitch and rhythm but has two or more redeeming qualities. (Do not award the additional point.) Redeeming qualities may include good contour, or multiple correct pitches or rhythms that do not comprise a complete segment.
- 0** This score is used for a response that demonstrates an attempt to answer the question but has no redeeming qualities (or only one) or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.

NR Reserved for blank responses.

IV. Scoring Notes

- A.** The following notations will *not* receive credit: enharmonic equivalents; octave transpositions; dots *before* the notehead; accidentals *after* the notehead.
- B.** If you use an alternate scoring guide, do not award the extra point to the total.
- C.** If you try both regular and alternate scoring guides, award the higher of the scores if there is a difference.
- D.** Scores from one guide may *not* be combined with those from another guide.

Total for question 2 (Regular Scoring Guide)

9 points

The melody is given below without bar lines and beams to assist in identifying segments (a segment is any half measure of the original melody, i.e., any set of three contiguous eighth notes):



Record points for correct segments in the boxes below. Use either the regular scoring guide or one of the alternate scoring guides.

Segment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Add. Pt.
Regular Scoring									
Alt. for Pitch ½ point									Max 4
Alt. for Rhythm ¼ point									Max 2

Question 2

Write your response to **QUESTION 2** on this page.

Question 2. The melody 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. The melody you will hear uses all four of the measures provided below and contains no rests. The melody will be played on an oboe.

The pitch of the first note has been provided. Be sure to notate the rhythm of that note. Now listen to the melody for the first time and begin working. 

Moderato



The melody for **Question 2** will now be played a second time. 

The melody for **Question 2** will now be played a third time. 

The melody for **Question 2** will now be played a final time. 

PLEASE GO ON TO THE NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS.

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

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

Overview

This question assessed students' ability to:

- convert an aural melody which uses the melodic minor key, compound meter, and light chromaticism to standard musical notation;
- notate rhythms in compound meter with division and subdivision elements;
- hear and notate the tonicized dominant;
- hear the raised sixth and seventh scale degrees of the melodic minor; and
- hear and differentiate between conjunct and disjunct melodic movement.

Sample: 2A

Score: 8

This represents an excellent response. Seven of the eight segments are correct in pitch and rhythm (segments one, two, three, four, five, six, and eight), and 7 points were awarded. Segment seven is correct in rhythm, but the E-flat (instead of E-natural) did not receive credit for pitch. Following the Regular Scoring Guide, 1 point was added to the score of 7 for a total score of 8.

Sample: 2B

Score: 5

This represents a fair response. Four of the eight segments are correct in pitch and rhythm (segments one, two, five, and eight), and 4 points were awarded. Segments three, four, and seven are incorrect in pitch, and segment six is incorrect in pitch and rhythm. Following the Regular Scoring Guide, 1 point was added to the score of 4 for a total score of 5.

Sample: 2C

Score: 2

This represents a poor response. Segment four is correct in pitch and rhythm, and 1 point was awarded. Segments one, two, five, and seven are incorrect in pitch. Segments three and six are incorrect in both pitch and rhythm. Segment eight is incorrect in rhythm. Following the Regular Scoring Guide, 1 point was added to the score of 1 for a total score of 2.