

**AP Music Theory:
A Resource for Assembling Sample
Multiple-Choice Questions for Classroom Practice**

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One thing I've learned while teaching AP Music Theory is the benefit of exposing students to actual AP exam questions as early and as frequently as possible. It's often the contextual listening, score analysis, and other multiple-choice questions that are the most challenging to amass for in-class practice. Indeed, we do have great resources available through the various released AP exams, but some teachers might wish to reserve those resources for practice exam experiences closer to May. Thus, I suggest the AP Music Theory Course Description – with its battery of sample questions – as a useful resource in supplying isolated multiple-choice experiences throughout the year.

To that end, I'd like to share a document (attached) that attempts to place those particular questions in an order from basic to advanced. You might consider "sprinkling in" a few questions per week, and with this document you can choose questions appropriate to your place in the curriculum (i.e., basic questions for early in the year, mid-level questions for winter, etc.).

Some of the questions are discrete, standalone items. Others belong to multiple-question sets based on audio or printed excerpts from the repertoire. This document might allow you to revisit those question sets throughout the year, exploring single, isolated questions – one at a time – as they become appropriate in the curricular flow. Thus, as each excerpt reappears throughout the year, students will explore increasingly advanced questions and hopefully enjoy the process of "digging deeper" into familiar measures of music!

Analysis of Sample Multiple-Choice Questions
from the [AP Music Theory Course Description \(Fall 2012\)*](#),
pp. 19-35

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Questions Divided into Groups of Increasing Curricular Depth:

KEY

= discrete (standalone) questions

<#> = part of a question set

Basic musicianship and literacy (e.g., fundamentals, triad types, scale-degree numbers, instrumentation, meter types):

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, [7, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, 29, 32](#), 33, 35, 36,
37, 39

Basics of 4-part vocal writing and score analysis (e.g., Roman numerals, basic part-writing rules, cadence types, basic terminology):

[16, 22, 24, 31, 41, 48](#)

Intermediate concepts of 4-part vocal writing and score analysis (e.g., triad inversions, nonharmonic tones, harmonic progression, intermediate terminology):

[10, 12, 14, 15, 24, 28](#), 40, [45](#)

More advanced concepts of 4-part vocal writing and score analysis (e.g., 7th-chord inversions, secondary dominants, tonicization/modulation, melodic procedures, advanced terminology):

[8, 9, 21, 23, 25, 30](#), 34, 38, [42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54](#)

* Available via AP Central's AP Music Theory Course Home Page.