

MEIS Proficiency Testing

Summer 2019

Brief Assessment

Below are 3 pieces of music and instructions for each piece of music. If the music that is presented is within your skill range, it would be beneficial to review the full study guides below and consider taking one or more proficiency tests.

Music Theory I: Analyze the following piece of music using chords and Roman numerals (an answer key for this question is provided at the end of this document)



A musical score in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody in the treble clef starts on D4, moves to E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and then descends. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Ear Training I: Sing the following melody using numbers or solfege (you can use an instrument to get a starting pitch, but then sing without an instrument)



A single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb major). The melody consists of a sequence of eighth and quarter notes: Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, A5, G5, F5, E5, D5, C5, Bb4.

Piano Class I: 1. Perform just the chord symbols using right hand chords (using appropriate inversions) and left hand bass notes in time. 2. Play just the treble clef melody in time.



A musical score in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The score consists of a single treble clef staff. Above the staff, chord symbols are written: D, A/C#, Bm, G, Em, Asus, A, D. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5.

Study Guides

Music Theory I

1. identify meters as duple/triple/quadruple and simple/compound
2. know the name of each scale degree (tonic, supertonic, etc.)
3. understand how the circle of 5ths works
4. write and identify major, natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales and modes of the major scale
5. write and identify intervals
6. write and identify triads (including sus chords) and 7th chords
7. analyze chords using Roman numerals
8. identify chords and non-harmonic tones from grand staff notation
9. transpose chord progressions and melodies in major keys
10. know the diatonic chords in major and minor keys

Ear Training I

Singing: (using numbers or solfege)

1. major and harmonic minor scales
2. sing up and down to any interval in the major scale
3. diatonic melodies in a major or minor key
4. clap and count rhythms with syncopated 8th notes

Dictation: (these items would be played and you would be asked to identify or notate them)

1. major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads
2. major, natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales
3. intervals from the major scale (maj. 2, maj. 3, P4, etc.)
4. diatonic melodic dictation in major and minor keys
5. rhythmic dictation with 8th notes in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time
6. chord progressions with I, ii, IV, V, and vi chords.

Piano I

1. sight reading in the treble and bass clef, one hand at a time
2. all major scales, 1 octave, right hand only
3. perform a lead sheet containing primarily diatonic triads which is notated in chord symbols; this will require right hand chords using appropriate inversions and left hand bass notes, played in time
4. perform a piece of your choice that demonstrates expression and use of the sustain pedal

Proficiency testing is available for higher levels of Music Theory, Ear Training, and Piano Classes as well. Please contact Peter Ellingson at peter.ellingson@ucdenver.edu to request study guides for those tests.

Answer to Music Theory I question: I V7 I iii IV ii7 V vi7 ii vi7 ii Vsus V I
A E7 A/E C#m/E D/F# Bm7/D E F#m7/C# Bm F#m7/A Bm/D Esus E A