

**THEORY I PLACEMENT EXAM  
SAMPLE VERSION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOORES SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

MAJOR INSTRUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Time allotted: One hour.**

This exam is designed for entering freshman with no college-level experience in music theory.

**PART I: PITCH.**

1. Write these notes on the staff:

A                      G $\flat$                       D $\sharp$                       B                      F

2. Write these notes on the staff:

E $\flat$                       C                      B                      A                      G $\sharp$

2. Identify the following intervals. Specify quality (major, minor, perfect, augmented, diminished) and size (3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Build the following intervals above or below the given note, as indicated:

interval above the given note:


interval below the given note:

aug 6                      maj 3                      perfect 5

perfect 4                      maj 6                      min 7


4. Write the indicated scales without using a key signature (using accidentals only):

G $\flat$  major G minor (natural)



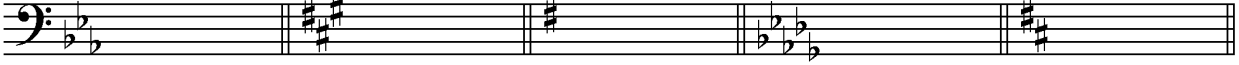
A single musical staff with a treble clef, divided into two sections by a double bar line. The first section is labeled 'G $\flat$  major' and the second is labeled 'G minor (natural)'. Both sections are currently empty.

F $\sharp$  minor (harmonic) F minor (melodic)



A single musical staff with a treble clef, divided into two sections by a double bar line. The first section is labeled 'F $\sharp$  minor (harmonic)' and the second is labeled 'F minor (melodic)'. Both sections are currently empty.

5. Identify the major keys indicated by these key signatures:



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A single musical staff with a bass clef, divided into five sections by double bar lines. Each section contains a key signature: 1. one flat (B $\flat$ ), 2. two sharps (F $\sharp$ , C $\sharp$ ), 3. one sharp (F $\sharp$ ), 4. two flats (B $\flat$ , E $\flat$ ), 5. two sharps (F $\sharp$ , C $\sharp$ ). Below the staff are five horizontal lines for answers.

6. Identify the minor keys indicated by these key signatures:



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

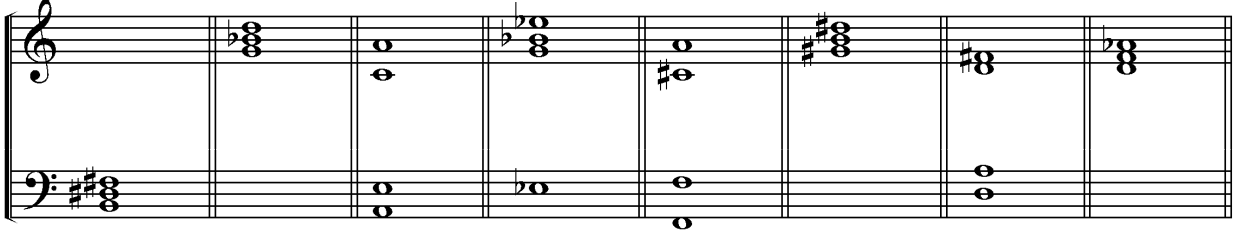
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A single musical staff with a treble clef, divided into five sections by double bar lines. Each section contains a key signature: 1. one flat (B $\flat$ ), 2. two sharps (F $\sharp$ , C $\sharp$ ), 3. three sharps (F $\sharp$ , C $\sharp$ , G $\sharp$ ), 4. two sharps (F $\sharp$ , C $\sharp$ ), 5. one flat (B $\flat$ ). Below the staff are five horizontal lines for answers.

7. Identify the quality of these triads (major, minor, diminished, or augmented):



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A musical staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, divided into eight measures by vertical bar lines. Each measure contains a triad. The triads are: 1. G major (treble), G major (bass), 2. C major (treble), C major (bass), 3. F major (treble), F major (bass), 4. D minor (treble), D minor (bass), 5. A minor (treble), A minor (bass), 6. E minor (treble), E minor (bass), 7. B minor (treble), B minor (bass), 8. F major (treble), F major (bass). Below the staff are eight horizontal lines for answers.

**PART II: RHYTHM.**

1. Draw these items in the space provided:

a) whole note:




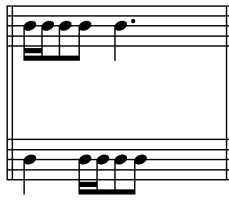
b) thirty-second note:

c) quarter note:

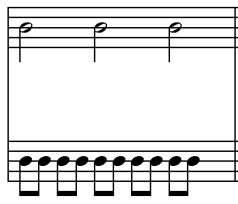
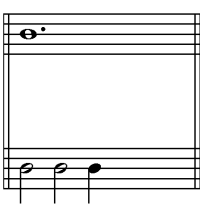


d) half rest:

e) eighth rest:

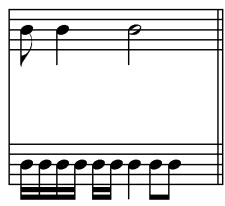

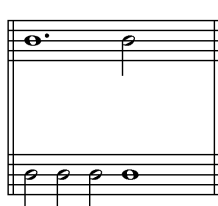

2. Each of the following items—A, B, C, and D—contains a pair of measures. Circle the pair in which the two measures occupy an equal amount of time.

(A)  (B)  (C)  (D) 

3. Each of the following items—A, B, C, and D—contains a pair of measures. Circle the pair in which the two measures occupy an equal amount of time.

(A)  (B)  (C)  (D) 

4. Each of the following items—A, B, C, and D—contains a pair of measures. Circle the pair in which the two measures occupy an equal amount of time.

(A)  (B)  (C)  (D) 

5. What is the most common meaning of these meter signs?

$\frac{3}{4}$  The \_\_\_\_\_ note is worth one beat; there are \_\_\_\_\_ beats per measure.

$\frac{2}{8}$  The \_\_\_\_\_ note is worth one beat; there are \_\_\_\_\_ beats per measure.

$\frac{12}{8}$  The \_\_\_\_\_ note is worth one beat; there are \_\_\_\_\_ beats per measure.

6. Write the meter signs that match these definitions:

a) The quarter note is worth one beat; there are two beats per measure. \_\_\_\_\_

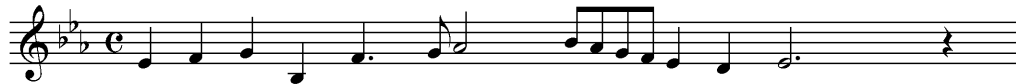
b) The dotted half note is worth one beat; there are three beats per measure. \_\_\_\_\_

c) The eighth note is worth one beat; there are four beats per measure. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Supply an appropriate meter sign for these excerpts:



8. In the following excerpts, add bar lines that match the given meter sign.



**PART III: AURAL SKILLS.**

1. Mode identification.

You will hear five scales, chord progressions, or musical excerpts. Identify the mode of what you hear as major or minor.

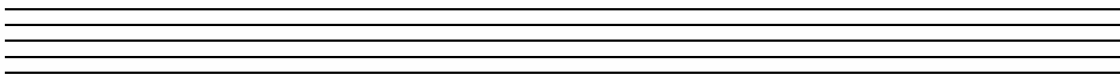
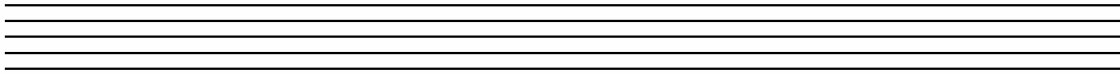
a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_ d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Melodic dictation.

Write down the melody you hear using the blank staves below.



3. Error detection.

Indicate whether what you hear is the same as or different than what is notated below.

[You will be given five notated melodies.]