

Study Guide for the Graduate Placement Exam in Music Theory

This online exam is designed to evaluate your skills and knowledge of music theory in several areas. All candidates must complete the both parts of the exam:

Part I Diatonic/Chromatic Harmony (70 minutes)

Part II: Large-Scale Formal & Harmonic Analysis (90 minutes)

Breakdown of Each Section

Part I: Diatonic/Chromatic Harmony

Part I of the exam is a set of questions that will test the student's knowledge about both diatonic harmony (10 questions) and chromatic harmony (10 questions). These questions will make reference to the following topics:

1. A Diatonic Figured Bass
2. A Chromatic Figured Bass
3. Roman-Numeral/Figured-Bass Analysis
4. Chord Identification
5. Cadence Identification

Preparation for this part of the exam is best accomplished by studying *The Complete Musician*, 4th ed., by Steven Laitz. The *workbooks* for this textbook includes many helpful exercises.

Part II: Large-Scale Formal & Harmonic Analysis

Part II of the exam presents a series of 27 questions that will require the student to complete an analysis of a large-scale formal design such as a sonata form, a rondo form, or a cyclic form. Questions may include the identification and description of the overall formal plan and tonal structure of the movement, the identification of larger sections and keys within the movement, the description of the harmonic motion of phrases and comments on phrase structure/cadences, organic unity, and other interesting analytical questions specific to the movement.

A good text to review is *The Analysis of Musical Form* by James Mathes and *Classical Form* by William E. Caplin. You will also be asked to do a detailed harmonic analysis of a short segment of this work, for which you will need a solid understanding of chromatic harmony. A good text to review for this is *The Complete Musician*, 4th ed., by Steven Laitz.