

North Fulton School of Music Test of Basic Music Theory Syllabus

Overview

The North Fulton School of Music Test of Basic Music Theory is designed to test a student's knowledge of basic music theory. If a student knows and understands the material covered in this test then he or she has the basic tools to learn any beginner music piece on their own. The student will also be proficient enough now to read and understand many intermediate pieces.

Who is this test for?

This test is for students nearing the intermediate level of performance. The student will likely be finished with the primer and level 1 books of their methodology, and, perhaps, even level 2.

How should this test be used?

This test is, at its heart, an evaluative tool. Any intermediate student should understand these concepts. So this test simply aims to assess whether a student has learned these concepts. If a student does poorly on the test it is not cause for alarm, it rather identifies the deficiencies so that the teacher knows what needs to be reinforced. The student could then retake the test when he or she feels better prepared.

Does this test reference any particular method series?

No, it does not. Different methodologies tackle these concepts in varying sequences, but all aim to reach the same destination. The student's teacher will be the best judge as to whether a student is ready for this test. The teacher may have to address a few of the concepts in this test outside of the method book in order to prepare for this test.

How is the test organized?

The test will be broken into three sections: Pitch, Rhythm, and Terminology. The test should require no more than 30 minutes to complete. The point value for each section is as follows:

- Pitch: Between 42 to 46 points (depending on the version of the test)
- Rhythm: Between 34 and 38 points (depending on the version of the test)
- Terminology: 20 points

A passing grade will be 75%.

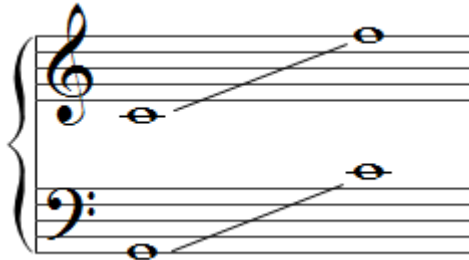
The remainder of this document details what will be covered in each section of the test.

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Pitch

- Know how many spaces and lines are on a staff.
- Recognize and name both the Treble and Bass Clef symbols.
- Know that bar lines separate measures.
- Be able to name notes on the Treble and Bass staves in these ranges, including notes with sharps, flats, or natural signs:



- Be able to read a note on the staff and draw a note that is either a half step or whole step above or below that note. The given note may have an accidental and the answer may require accidentals (including the use of natural signs).
- Be able to name intervals (numbers only, e.g., 2nd, 5th, etc.). All intervals will be in the Key of C Major and the lowest note will always be middle C.
- Know the C Major and G Major scales:
 - Know where the half steps are in the major scale.
 - Be able to write a major scale on the staff along with the key signature.

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Rhythm

- Know the names and how many beats each of these notes receives in $\frac{4}{4}$:
 - Whole note
 - Dotted half note
 - Half note
 - Quarter note
 - Eighth note
- Be able to count how many beats tied notes receive.
- Know how many beats each of these notes receives in $\frac{4}{4}$:
 - Whole rest
 - Dotted half rest
 - Half rest
 - Eighth rest
- Be able to describe what both the top and bottom number in a time signature represent.
- Be able to write in the appropriate time signature for a musical example. The only time signatures covered in this test are: $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$.
- Draw bar lines in a musical example to create measures of appropriate length for the given time signature.
- Draw in missing notes in a musical example to make it have the appropriate number of beats for the time signature.

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Terminology

Be able to match these descriptions to their symbols:

- Bass Clef
- Natural sign
- Final bar line
- Forte
- Time Signature
- Mezzo forte
- Pianissimo
- Flat
- Fortissimo
- Treble Clef
- Sharp
- Repeat sign
- Mezzo piano
- Piano

Be able to match these terms to their description:

- Ledger line - a short line used for notes above or below the staff (ex: Middle C)
- Tonic - the 1st scale degree of the major or minor scale
- Dominant - the 5th scale degree of the major or minor scale
- Tempo - the speed at which the music is performed
- Adagio - a slow tempo
- Allegro - a fast tempo
- Crescendo - Gradually get louder
- Decrescendo - Gradually get softer
- D.C. al Fine - return the beginning and play until you reach the Fine
- Fine - the end
- Tie - a curved line that connects two notes of the same pitch creating a combined value of time
- Staccato - play or sing a note in a short or detached manner
- Legato - play or sing smoothly with no separation between notes
- Slur - a curved line that indicates to play legato or identifies a phrase
- Ritardando (rit.) - slow down gradually