



AP Music Theory Student Score Distributions – Global AP Exams - May 2011

Aural Subscore

Exam Score	Music Theory	
	N	% At
5	3,166	17.5
4	3,174	17.5
3	4,392	24.2
2	4,847	26.7
1	2,545	14.0
Number of Students	18,124	
3 or Higher / %	10,732	59.2
Mean Score	2.98	
Standard Deviation	1.30	

Exam Score	Music Theory Aural Subscore	
	N	% At
5	3,095	17.1
4	3,229	17.8
3	4,458	24.6
2	4,672	25.8
1	2,670	14.7
Number of Students	18,124	
3 or Higher / %	10,782	59.5
Mean Score	2.97	
Standard Deviation	1.31	

Nonaural Subscore

Exam Score	Music Theory Nonaural Subscore	
	N	% At
5	3,056	16.9
4	3,278	18.1
3	4,285	23.6
2	4,843	26.7
1	2,662	14.7
Number of Students	18,124	
3 or Higher / %	10,619	58.6
Mean Score	2.96	
Standard Deviation	1.31	

Two subscores are reported based on students' performance on the aural and nonaural portions of the exam. The aural component includes multiple-choice questions related to recorded musical examples, two melodic dictation questions, two harmonic dictation questions, and two sight-singing questions. The nonaural component includes multiple-choice questions requiring score analysis and other multiple-choice questions not related to recorded musical examples. It also includes free-response questions calling for realization of a figured bass, realization of a chord progression from Roman numerals, and composition of a bass line to fit a given melody. The subscores help music departments make appropriate decisions about credit and placement when they offer separate courses for written theory and aural skills. It is recommended that, for students continuing study in music, subscores be considered along with the overall score. It is further recommended that the college or university use the overall score to set policy for students seeking general humanities credits.