# AP ${ }^{\circledR}$ MUSIC THEORY 2007 SCORING GUIDELINES 

## Definitions of Common Voice-Leading Errors (FR 5 \& 6)



1. Parallel fifths and octaves (immediately consecutive)—unacceptable (award 0 points)
2. Beat-to-beat fifths and octaves (equal perfect intervals on successive beats)—unacceptable (award 0 points)
3. Fifths and octaves by contrary motion-unacceptable (award 0 points)
4. Unequal fifths ( $\mathrm{d} 5 \rightarrow \mathrm{P} 5$ )

- In a three- or four-part texture, a rising $\mathrm{d} 5 \rightarrow \mathrm{P} 5$ is acceptable ONLY in the progressions I-V\$-I ${ }^{6}$ and $I-$ vii $^{\circ 6}-I^{6}$ (i.e., no deduction).
- A rising $\mathrm{d} 5 \rightarrow \mathrm{P} 5$ in other progressions is unacceptable (1-point error).
- The reverse, a rising $\mathrm{P} 5 \rightarrow \mathrm{~d} 5$, is acceptable voice leading (no deduction).
- Unequal fifths in either order, when descending, are acceptable (no deduction).

5. Hidden (or covered) fifths and octaves in outer voices (similar motion to a perfect interval that involves one voice moving by step)

- When the step is in the upper voice, as shown in ex. 5a-acceptable (no deduction).
- When the step is in the lower voice, as shown in ex. 5b-unacceptable (1-point error).

6. Direct fifths and octaves in outer voices-unacceptable (1-point error)

Definition: Similar motion to a perfect interval that involves a skip in each voice. NB: Many sources equate "hidden" and "direct." For purposes of scoring, it seems useful to refine those definitions, particularly in light of past scoring practice.
7. Overlapping voices-unacceptable (1-point error)

Definition: Two adjacent voices move to a position in which the lower voice is higher than the previous note in the higher voice, or they move to a position where the higher voice is lower than the previous note in the lower voice.
8. Crossed voices-unacceptable (1-point error)

Definition: Voicing in which the normal relative position of voices is violated, e.g., if the soprano is below the alto, or the bass is above the tenor.

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## Question 5



## SCORING: 25 points

## I. Roman Numerals (7 points, 1 point per numeral)

A. Award 1 point for each correct Roman numeral.

1. Accept the correct Roman numeral regardless of its case.
2. Ignore any Arabic numerals, because they are included in the question itself.
3. Award no credit if an accidental is placed before a Roman numeral.
4. Award full credit if the half-diminished symbol ( $\varnothing$ ) has been omitted from the ii (chord 4).
B. The cadential @ may be correctly notated in two different ways, as shown in the key above. If the Roman numeral of the antepenultimate chord is V , the space below the penultimate chord should either:
(1) contain a figure; (2) be blank or contain a dash; or (3) contain a V, in order for the antepenultimate chord to receive any credit.


## II. Chord Spelling ( 6 points, 1 point per chord)

A. Award 1 point for each chord that correctly realizes the given figured bass.

1. The chord must be spelled correctly.
2. The fifth (but not the third) may be omitted from any root-position triad.
3. The fifth (but not the third or seventh) may be omitted from a root-position dominant seventh chord.
4. All inverted triads and inverted seventh chords must be complete.
5. All triads must contain at least three voices.
6. All seventh chords must contain at least four voices.

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## Question 5 (continued)

B. Award 0 points for a chord that breaks one or more of the conditions of II.A.

1. Do NOT check the voice leading into and out of these chords.
C. Award $1 / 2$ point each for a correctly realized chord that has exactly one of the following errors:
2. A doubled leading tone, a doubled chordal seventh, or incorrect doubling of a @ chord.
3. More than one octave between adjacent upper parts.
D. Award 0 points for a correctly realized chord that has more than one error listed in II.C. or has an accidental on the wrong side of the chord.
4. Do check the voice leading into and out of these chords.

## III. Voice Leading ( 12 points, 2 points per connection)

A. Award 2 points for acceptable voice leading between two correctly realized chords.

NB: This includes the voice leading from the given chord to the second chord.
B. Award only 1 point for voice leading between two correctly realized chords that features exactly one of the following errors:

1. Uncharacteristic rising unequal fifths. (See DCVLE, no. 4.)
2. Uncharacteristic hidden (covered) or direct octaves or fifths between outer voices. (See DCVLE, nos. 5 and 6.)
3. Overlapping or crossed voices. (See DCVLE, nos. 7 and 8.)
4. A chordal seventh approached by a descending leap.
C. Award no points ( 0 pts.) for voice leading between two correctly realized chords if any of the following statements is true:
5. Parallel octaves, fifths, or unisons occur (immediately successive or on successive beats), including those by contrary motion. (See DCVLE, nos. 1 through 3.)
6. Uncharacteristic leaps occur (e.g., Augmented 2nd, tritone, or more than a fifth).
7. Chordal sevenths are unresolved or resolved incorrectly. (The voice with the seventh must move down by step if possible. In some cases (e.g., ii-cadential @), the seventh may be retained in the same voice or transferred to another voice.)
8. The leading tone in an outer voice is unresolved or resolved incorrectly.
9. The $6^{\text {th }}$ or $4^{\text {th }}$ of a @ chord is unresolved or resolved incorrectly.
10. A suspension is handled incorrectly. (Consider this as voice leading before the chord.)
11. One of the chords is a triad with only three voices, or any chord with more than four voices.
12. More than one error listed in section III.B. occurs.
D. Award no points for voice leading into and out of an incorrectly realized chord.

## IV. Scores with Additional Meaning

00 Response demonstrates an attempt to answer the question but has no redeeming qualities (or one).

-     - This designation is reserved for irrelevant answers and blank papers.


## V. Notes

A. Do not penalize a response that includes correctly used nonchord tones.
B. An incorrectly used nonchord tone will be considered a voice-leading error (1 or 2 points as indicated above).
C. Round $1 / 2$ points UP with one exception: round $241 / 2$ points down to 24 points.

Realize the figured bass below in four voices, following eighteenth-century voice-leading procedures. Continue logically from the spacing of the first chord. Do not add embellishments unless indicated by the figured bass. In the space below each chord, supply the Roman numeral that appropriately indicates harmonic function.


Question 5. (Suggested time- 15 minutes)
Realize the figured bass below in four voices, following eighteenth-century voice-leading procedures. Continue logically from the spacing of the first chord. Do not add embellishments unless indicated by the figured bass. In the space below each chord, supply the Roman numeral that appropriately indicates harmonic function.


Question 5. (Suggested time-15 minutes)
Realize the figured bass below in four voices, following eighteenth-century voice-leading procedures. Continue logically from the spacing of the first chord. Do not add embellishments unless indicated by the figured bass. In the space below each chord, supply the Roman numeral that appropriately indicates harmonic function.


# AP ${ }^{\circledR}$ MUSIC THEORY <br> 2007 SCORING COMMENTARY 

Question 5

## Overview

The intent of this question was:

- To test students' ability to write proper voice leading in four-voice harmony.
- To test students' ability to provide accidentals and otherwise demonstrate understanding of harmonic function in the minor mode.
- To test students' ability to read and interpret a figured bass.
- To test students' ability to spell chords correctly.
- To test students' ability to double and resolve a ${ }_{4}^{6}$ chord correctly.
- To test students' ability to prepare and resolve the seventh of a chord correctly.


## Sample: 5A

Score: 24

This represents an almost perfect response. All chord spellings, voice leading, and Roman numerals are correct. The only error is that the bass is not doubled in the $V_{4}^{6}$ chord. Although this is just a $1 / 2$ point error, 2412 was the only fractional score that was rounded down instead of up. (Chord spelling: 5.5; Voice leading:
12 ; Roman numerals: 7; Total $=24.5$, rounded down to 24 )

## Sample: 5B <br> Score: 15

This represents a moderately good response. All of the Roman numerals are correct, so 7 points were awarded. The extraneous symbols do not affect the identification of the Roman numerals. However, since the ii ${ }^{\boxed{ } 5} 5$ chord is incomplete, no points were awarded for that chord's spelling, and voice leading into and out of this chord also received no points. The penultimate chord is missing the seventh, so no points could be awarded for spelling or voice leading into and out of this chord. The $i_{4}^{6}$ chord is doubled incorrectly, allowing only $1 / 2$ point to be awarded for chord spelling. The first two chord connections are handled correctly; therefore 4 points were awarded for voice leading. (Chord spelling: 3.5; Voice leading: 4; Roman numerals: 7 ; Total $=14.5$, rounded up to 15)

## Sample: 5C <br> Score: 5

This represents a very weak response. Only 4 points were awarded for the Roman numerals. Because only the last chord is spelled correctly, only 1 point was awarded for spelling, and no chord connections could be checked. There were no points awarded for voice leading. (Chord spelling: 1; Voice leading: 0; Roman numerals: 4 ; Total $=5$ )

