
AP Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] MUSIC THEORY 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2



0–9 points

Always begin with the regular scoring guide. Try an alternate scoring guide *only* if necessary. (See **I.D.**)

I. Regular Scoring Guide

- A.** Award 1 point for each segment correct in both pitch and rhythm.
- A “segment” is any half measure of the original melody, even if occurring over a bar line or beginning on a metrically weak pulse. (In common time or cut time, a segment is any set of two contiguous quarter-note beats; in compound duple meter, a segment is any set of three contiguous eighth-note beats.)
 - To receive credit, a segment must not overlap with any other segment receiving credit.
 - Do not subdivide a note to identify a segment.
 - To receive credit, a segment *may* be metrically shifted from its original position.
 - Give no credit for the final dotted quarter note if notation of pitches continues thereafter.
- B.** If at least one segment is correct in pitch and rhythm, add 1 point to the total. For example, a response that is correct in all aspects receives a score of 8 + 1, or 9. Exception: Do not award a 9 unless all measures have the correct number of beats. Award an 8 (i.e., do not award the extra point) to an otherwise perfect response that does not use bar lines correctly.
- C.** Record any score of 4 or higher and ignore the alternate scoring guides.
- D.** If after applying **I.A.** and **I.B.** the score is less than 4, try an alternate scoring guide.

II. Alternate Scoring Guides (Do not add the extra point to the total.)

- A.** Award $\frac{1}{2}$ point per segment of correct pitches. (Maximum of 4 points)
OR
- B.** Award $\frac{1}{4}$ point per segment of correct rhythm. (Maximum of 2 points)

III. Rounding Fractional Scores

- A.** Half-point totals round down with one exception: A total score of $1\frac{1}{2}$ rounds up to 2.
- B.** Quarter points should be rounded to the closest integer.

IV. Scores with Additional Meaning


- 1** This score may also be used for a response that does not have one segment correct in both pitch and rhythm but has two or more redeeming qualities. (Do not add the extra point.)
- 0** This score is used for a response that demonstrates an attempt to answer the question but has no redeeming qualities (or only one) or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.
- The dash is reserved for blank responses.

V. Scoring Notes

- A.** The following notations will *not* receive credit: enharmonic equivalents; octave transpositions; dots *before* the notehead; accidentals *after* the notehead.
- B.** If you use an alternate scoring guide, do *not* add the extra point to the total.
- C.** If you try both regular and alternate scoring guides, record the higher of the scores if there is a difference.
- D.** Scores from one guide may *not* be combined with those from another guide.


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Question 2. The melody will be played four times. There will be a pause of 30 seconds after the first playing and a one-minute pause after each subsequent playing. The melody you will hear uses all four of the measures provided below and contains no rests. The melody will be played on an oboe.


The pitch of the first note has been provided. Be sure to notate the rhythm of that note. Now listen to the melody for the first time and begin working. 

Moderato



The melody for **Question 2** will now be played a second time. 

The melody for **Question 2** will now be played a third time. 

The melody for **Question 2** will now be played a final time. 

PLEASE GO ON TO THE NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS.

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AP[®] MUSIC THEORY

2017 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

This question assessed students' ability to:

- hear a four-measure minor-key melody in compound meter and notate the melody;
- hear and notate ascending and descending scalar patterns in the minor mode;
- hear and notate an ascending arpeggiated tonic triad;
- hear and notate the dotted rhythms in the first, third, and fourth measures of the melody;
- hear and notate melodic patterns containing stepwise motion and melodic skips;
- hear and notate an idiomatic melodic cadence; and
- hear and notate pitches correctly in treble clef.

Sample: 2A

Score: 8

This represents a very good response. Seven segments are correct in pitch and rhythm (a segment is half of a measure or any three contiguous eighth-note beats), and 7 points were awarded. The pitches in segment four are correct, but the rhythm is incorrect. Using the regular Scoring Guide, 1 point was added to the score of 7 for a total score of 8.

Sample: 2B

Score: 5

This represents a fairly good response. Segments one, three, four, and six are correct in both pitch and rhythm and earned 4 points. Although segments two, five, and eight are correct in pitch, the dots in these segments are notated on the wrong side of the note, making them incorrect in rhythm. Segment seven is incorrect in pitch and rhythm. Using the regular Scoring Guide, 1 point was added to the score of 4 for a total score of 5.

Sample: 2C

Score: 2

This represents a poor response. Only the first segment is correct in both pitch and rhythm. Segment two is correct in rhythm but has an A-flat instead of an A-sharp. Segment three is incorrect in pitch and rhythm. Segments four and five are missing, and segment six has only note heads. Segment seven is incorrect in pitch due to the lack of accidentals. Using the regular Scoring Guide, 1 point was added to the score of 1 for a total score of 2.