

AP Music Theory



The following learning targets represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

Semester 1:

Fundamentals of Music:

- Discuss/review procedures for sight reading.
- Begin learning note names in four clefs and rhythm note and rest values.
- Learn time signatures in simple and compound meter.
- Sight reading factory level 1 (melody and rhythm.)

Unit 1: Intervals, Scales, Tonality, Key, Modes, Chords, Cadences, Harmonic Progressions

- Sight reading factory level 2 and 3 (melody and rhythm).
- Writing major scales and major key signatures.
- Discuss scale degree names and purposes.
- Identify and write minor key signatures and minor scales.
- Identifying and writing major, minor, perfect, augmented, diminished intervals.
- Discuss consonant and dissonant intervals.
- Learn inversions of intervals (identifying and writing).
- Building triads in root position from scale degree.
- Building seventh chords in root position from scale degrees.
- Discuss the quality of roman numerals in major and minor keys with triads and seventh chords.
- Identify and write major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads.
- Building seventh chords in root position.

Unit 2: Textures, Melodic Organization, Voice Leading

- Sight reading factory level 2 and 3 (melody and rhythm).
- Analyzing chords in inversions in a major or minor key signature.
- Building triads and seventh chords in inversions in major and minor key signatures.
- Review the quality of roman numerals in major and minor keys with triads and seventh chords.

- Discuss and use triad and seventh chord part-writing rules.
- Discuss chord progressions and cadences.
- Discuss non-chord tones and sequences.

Semester 2:

Unit 3: Seventh Chords, Modulation, and Form

- Sight reading factory level 3 and 4 (melody and rhythm).
- Analyzing chords in inversions in a major or minor key signature.
- Building triads and seventh chords in inversions in major and minor key signatures.
- Review the quality of roman numerals in major and minor keys with triads and seventh chords.
- Discuss and use triad and seventh chord part-writing rules.
- Discuss chord progressions and cadences.
- Discuss non-chord tones and sequences.

Unit 4: Preparation for the AP Exam

- Use test methods to prepare students for the AP exam.
- Sight reading factory level 3 and 4 (melody and rhythm).
- Analyzing chords in inversions in a major or minor key signature.
- Building triads and seventh chords in inversions in major and minor key signatures.
- Review the quality of roman numerals in major and minor keys with triads and seventh chords.
- Discuss and use triad and seventh chord part-writing rules.
- Discuss chord progressions and cadences.
- Discuss non-chord tones and sequences.

Essential Questions for Each Semester

- How can I obtain and improve my sight reading skills?
- How do I dictate music excerpts accurately?
- How do I read and write music?
- How do I prepare for the AP exam effectively?
- What resources are available to help me solidify my understanding of the musical concepts?