

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE – PREPARATORY LEVEL

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: C, G, and F major

Scales: Write five-finger patterns: C, F, G, D, A

Symbols: Write the musical alphabet forwards and backwards

Draw whole, half, and quarter notes on lines or spaces

Identify treble/bass clef, ties/slurs, and whole, half, and quarter rests

Harmony: Identify whole and half steps on a keyboard

Identify intervals of unison, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th on the staff

Identify notes within the grand staff (middle C line as the only ledger line)

Rhythm/Meter: Understand symbols and counts for:

Whole notes and rests

Half notes and rests

Quarter notes and rests

Dotted half notes

Know the meaning of the upper number in a time signature

Identify measures as being in a 2/4, 3/4, or 4/4 time signature

PERFORMANCE

Five-finger patterns in C, F, G, D, A

LISTENING

Identify 2-measure rhythm consisting of notes/rests listed above

Identify 4-6 note melodies in a five-finger pattern with a focus on direction of motion, skips, steps, and repeated notes

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 1

WRITTEN

- Key Signatures: Major to 1 sharp/flat
- Scales: Major and minor five-finger pattern from any white key, one-octave Major scales to 1 sharp/flat
- Symbols: Draw treble and bass clefs, braces and barlines
- Harmony: Identify whole steps and half steps on a keyboard, higher and lower notes using sharp, flat and natural symbols.
Identify harmonic and melodic intervals of a unison, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, the I (Tonic) and the V (Dominant) chords in root position of the Major keys to 1 sharp/flat.
Identify notes on the grand staff with middle C given.
- Rhythm/Meter: Find errors in simple 2-measure rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time signatures.
Know and understand the meaning of the upper and lower numbers of the time signature and where it is located on the staff.
Identify and know the symbols and counts of:
- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Whole notes | Whole rests | Half notes |
| Half rests | Dotted half notes | Dotted half rests |
| Quarter notes | Quarter rests | Dotted quarter notes |
| Dotted quarter rests | Eighth notes | Eighth rests |
- Transposition: Transpose a simple 2-measure melody from C position to G or F positions.
- History: Know the four periods of music: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary.
- Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

- Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in C five-finger position in 4/4 meter
- Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.
- Scales: Major to 1 sharp/flat, one octave, up and down, hands together or tetrachord fingering
- Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

LISTENING

- Intervals: Identify intervals from the 1st note of a Major five-finger pattern (i.e., Major 2nds, 3rds, Perfect 4ths and 5ths).
- Scales: Identify whether a five-finger pattern is Major or minor.
- Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position.
- Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.
- Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in a five-finger pattern.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 2

WRITTEN

- Key Signatures: Major to 2 sharps/flats
- Scales: Major and minor five-finger pattern from any white key, one-octave Major scales to 1 sharp/flat
- Symbols: Draw treble and bass clefs, braces and bar lines.
- Harmony: Identify whole steps and half steps on the keyboard, higher and lower notes using sharp, flat and natural symbols.
Identify harmonic and melodic intervals of a unison, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, the I (Tonic) and the V (Dominant) chords in root position of the Major keys to 2 sharps/flats.
Identify notes on the grand staff with middle C given.
- Rhythm/Meter: Find errors in simple 2-measure rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time signatures.
Know and understand the meaning of the upper and lower numbers of the time signature and where it is located on the staff.
Identify and know the symbols and counts of:
- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Whole notes | Whole rests | Half notes |
| Half rests | Dotted half notes | Dotted half rests |
| Quarter notes | Quarter rests | Dotted quarter notes |
| Dotted quarter rests | Eighth notes | Eighth rests |
- Transposition: Transpose a simple 2-measure melody from C position to G or F positions.
- History: Know the four periods of music: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary.
- Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

- Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in C five-finger position in 4/4 meter
- Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.
- Scales: Major to 1 sharp/flat, one octave, up and down, hands together or tetrachord fingering
- Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

LISTENING

- Intervals: Identify intervals from the 1st note of a Major five-finger pattern (i.e., Major 2nds, 3rds, Perfect 4ths and 5ths).
- Scales: Identify whether a five-finger pattern is Major or minor.
- Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position.
- Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.
- Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in a five-finger pattern.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 3

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major to 3 sharps/flats, relative minor to 1 sharp/flat.

Scales: One-octave Major scales to 3 sharps/flats. One-octave natural minor scales to 1 sharp/flat.

Know where the half steps are in Major scales (3-4, 7-8).

Harmony: Identify and complete melodic and harmonic intervals of a unison, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and octave.

Identify and write the I (Tonic), V (Dominant) and IV (Sub-dominant) in root position and identify root position and first and second inversion triads of those chords in the Major keys to 2 sharps/flats.

Identify Major and minor chords (root position) from any white key.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify rhythms and write in the counts to given examples in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 6/8.

Identify and know the symbols and counts of 16ths to wholes, dotted and undotted, notes and rests.

Transposition: Transpose a simple 4-measure melody into keys to 2 sharps/flats.

History: Know the four periods of music and name 2 composers from each period.

Composers to know: [Baroque] J.S. Bach, Scarlatti; [Classical] Mozart, Beethoven; [Romantic] Chopin, Tchaikowsky; [Contemporary] Bartok, Kabalevsky

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in C, F or G Major five-finger position in time signatures of 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 meter

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major to 3 sharps/flats, natural minor to 1 sharp/flat, one octave, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify intervals from the 1st note of a Major scale.

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major or (harmonic) minor.

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in various inversions.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in an octave scale range.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 4

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major to 3 sharps/flats, relative minor to 1 sharp/flat

Scales: One-octave Major scales to 3 sharps/flats. One-octave natural minor scales to 1 sharp/flat.
Know where the half steps are in minor scales (2-3, 5-6).

Harmony: Identify and complete melodic and harmonic intervals of a unison, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and octave.

Identify and write the I (Tonic), V (Dominant) and IV (Sub-dominant) in root position.

Identify root position and first and second inversion triads of those chords in the Major keys to 2 sharps/flats.

Identify Major and minor chords (root position) from any white key.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify rhythms and write in the counts to given examples in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, & 6/8.

Identify and know the symbols and counts of 16ths to wholes, dotted and undotted, notes and rests.

Identify examples of duple, triple, and quadruple meter.

Transposition: Transpose a simple 4-measure melody into keys to 2 sharps/flats.

History: Know the four periods of music and name 2 composers from each period.

Composers to know: [Baroque] J.S. Bach, Scarlatti; [Classical] Mozart, Beethoven;
[Romantic] Chopin, Tchaikowsky; [Contemporary] Bartok, Kabalevsky

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in C, F or G Major five-finger position in time signatures of 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 meter

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major to 3 sharps/flats, natural minor to 1 sharp/flat, one octave, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify intervals from the 1st note of a Major scale.

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major or (harmonic) minor.

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in various inversions.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in an octave scale range.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 5

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major to 4 sharps/flats, relative minor to 2 sharps/flats

Scales: One octave Major scales to 4 sharps/flats, one-octave harmonic minor scales to 2 sharps/flats.

Harmony: Identify and complete harmonic and melodic intervals from unison (prime) up to an octave from any white key.

Identify augmented and diminished chords (root position) from any white key.

Identify authentic and half cadences in Major keys to 2 sharps/flats.

Identify AB, ABA and AABA form.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify rhythms and write in the counts to given examples in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, & 6/8.

Identify and know the symbols and counts of 16ths to wholes, dotted and undotted, notes and rests, and 8th note triplet.

Identify examples of duple, triple and quadruple meter.

Transposition: Transpose a simple 4-measure melody into keys to 3 sharps/flats

History: Know the four periods of music, and name 3 composers from each period. Composers to know: [Baroque] J.S. Bach, Handel, Scarlatti; [Classical] Mozart, Beethoven, Clementi; [Romantic] Chopin, Tchaikowsky, Schumann; [Contemporary] Debussy, Bartok, Kabalevsky

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in Major or minor keys to 1 sharp/flat

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major to 4 sharps/flats, harmonic minor to 2 sharps/flats, two octaves, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

Arpeggios: Hands together, 2 octaves up and down in Major/minor keys to 2 sharps/flats

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify intervals from the 1st note of a Major scale.

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major or (harmonic) minor.

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversions.

Identify authentic and half cadences.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in an octave scale range, Major or minor.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 6

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major to 4 sharps/flats, relative minor to 2 sharps/flats

Scales: One-octave Major scales to 4 sharps/flats, one-octave harmonic minor scales to 2 sharps/flats.

Harmony: Identify and complete harmonic and melodic intervals from unison (prime) up to an octave from any white key.

Identify Augmented and diminished chords (root position) from any white key.

Identify authentic and half cadences in Major keys to 2 sharps/flats.

Identify AB, ABA and AABA form.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify rhythms and write in the counts to given examples in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, & 6/8

Identify and know the symbols and counts of 16ths to wholes, dotted and undotted, notes and rests, and 8th note triplet.

Identify examples of duple, triple, and quadruple meter.

Transposition: Transpose a simple 4-measure melody into keys to 3 sharps/flats.

History: Know the four periods of music and name 3 composers from each period. Composers to know: [Baroque] J.S. Bach, Handel, Scarlatti; [Classical] Mozart, Beethoven, Clementi; [Romantic] Chopin, Tchaikowsky, Schumann; [Contemporary] Debussy, Bartok, Kabalevsky

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in Major or minor keys to 1 sharp/flat

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major to 4 sharps/flats, harmonic minor to 2 sharps/flats, two octaves, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

Arpeggios: Hands together, 2 octaves up and down in Major/minor keys to 2 sharps/flats

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify intervals from the 1st note of a Major scale.

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major or (harmonic) minor.

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversions.
Identify authentic and half cadences.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in an octave scale range, Major or minor.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 7

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major to 5 sharps/flats, relative minor to 4 sharps/flats

Scales: One-octave Major scales to 5 sharps/flats, harmonic minor scales to 4 sharps/flats.

Harmony: Identify and complete all Major, minor, and Perfect intervals within the octave (P1, M2, m2, etc.) from any black or white key.

Identify and complete Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversions from any white key.

Identify and complete Major, minor, Augmented, and diminished chords (root position) from any key.

Identify and complete authentic, half, and plagal cadences in Major keys to 3 sharps/flats.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify and know the symbols and counts of 32nds to wholes, dotted and undotted, notes and rests.

Understand and give examples of simple, compound, and irregular meter: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 9/8, 12/8, 5/4, 7/8, 11/8.

Transposition: Transpose a 4-measure melody with simple chords (I, IV, V) into keys to 3 sharps/flats.

History: Relate Baroque (1600-1750), Classical (1750-1820), Romantic (1800-1900) and Contemporary (1900-now) music periods to American history. During which period would you find American colonization, the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War?

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in Major or minor keys to 2 sharps/flats

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major to 5 sharps/flats, harmonic minor to 4 sharps/flats, three octaves, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

Arpeggios: Hands together, 2 octaves up and down in Major/minor keys to 4 sharps/flats

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify all Major, minor, and Perfect intervals within the octave.

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major, natural minor, or harmonic minor

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversion.

Identify diminished and Augmented triads in root position.

Identify authentic and half cadences.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in an octave scale range, Major or minor.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 8

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major to 5 sharps/flats, relative minor to 4 sharps/flats

Scales: One octave Major scales to 5 sharps/flats, harmonic minor scales to 4 sharps/flats

Harmony: Identify and complete all Major, minor, and Perfect intervals within the octave (P1, M2, m2, etc.) from any black or white key.

Identify and complete Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversions from any white key.

Identify and complete Major, minor, Augmented, and diminished chords (root position) from any key.

Identify and complete authentic, plagal, and half cadences in Major keys to 3 sharps/flats.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify and know the symbols and counts of 32nds to wholes, dotted and undotted, notes and rests.

Understand and give examples of simple, compound, and irregular meter: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 9/8, 12/8, 5/4, 7/8, 11/8.

Transposition: Transpose a 4-measure melody with simple chords (I, IV, V) into keys to 3 sharps/flats

History: Relate Baroque (1600-1750), Classical (1750-1820), Romantic (1800-1900) and Contemporary (1900-now) music periods to American history. Identify the period in which each of the following would live: Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, Bill Clinton, George Bush, John Kennedy, Thomas Jefferson, Woodrow Wilson, George Washington.

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A simple 8-measure piece in Major or minor keys to 2 sharps/flats

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major to 5 sharps/flats, harmonic minor to 4 sharps/flats, three octaves, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

Arpeggios: Hands together, 2 octaves up and down in Major/minor keys to 4 sharps/flats.

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify all Major, minor, and Perfect intervals that fall within the octave.

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major, natural minor, or harmonic minor.

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversion.

Identify diminished and augmented triads in root position.

Identify authentic and half cadences.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 6 note melodies in an octave scale range, Major or minor.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVELS 9 and 10

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major and minor to 6 sharps/flats

Scales: Identify/write Major, natural minor and harmonic minor scales to 6 sharps/flats and harmonic minor scales to 5 sharps/flats. Build whole tone and chromatic scales.

Know scale degree Roman numerals of the Major scale (i.e., I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii^o) and the quality of each degree.

Harmony: Identify and complete all Major, minor and Perfect intervals within the octave (P1, M2, m2, etc.) from any black or white key.

Identify and complete all triads (Major, minor, Augmented, diminished) in root position and first and second inversion from any black or white key.

Identify and complete authentic, half, plagal, and deceptive cadences in Major keys to 5 sharps/flats.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify and complete rhythms using rhythmic values up to 32nd notes/rests.

Identify examples of simple, compound, and irregular meters.

Transposition: Transpose a simple 4-measure piece with left hand chord patterns (I, IV, V) into keys to 4 sharps/flats

History: Know the four periods of music by date and name and know three composers from each period.
Composers to know: [Baroque (1600-1750)] J.S. Bach, Handel, Scarlatti; [Classical (1750-1820)] Mozart, Beethoven, Clementi; [Romantic (1800-1900)] Chopin, Tchaikowsky, Schumann; [Contemporary (1900-now)] Debussy, Bartok, Kabalevsky

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A piece in Major or minor keys to 3 sharps/flats

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major, natural and harmonic minor to 6 sharps/flats, four octaves, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

Arpeggios: Hands together, 2 octaves up and down in Major/minor keys to 6 sharps/flats

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify all Major, minor and Perfect intervals within the octave

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major, natural minor, harmonic minor, whole tone, or chromatic.

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversion.

Identify diminished and Augmented triads in root position.

Identify authentic, half and plagal cadences.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 8 note melodies in Major/minor scales or limited chromatic alteration within an octave range.

NNMTA FESTIVAL THEORY STUDY GUIDE - LEVEL 11

WRITTEN

Key Signatures: Major and minor to 7 sharps/flats

Scales: Identify/write Major scales and natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales to 7 sharps/flats.

Harmony: All previous requirements in any Major or minor key.

Identify and complete all Major, minor, Perfect, Augmented, and diminished intervals within the octave (P1, M2, m2, A2, M3, A3, d3, etc.) from any black or white key.

Identify and complete a tritone.

Rhythm/Meter: Identify and complete rhythms using rhythmic values up to 64th notes/rests.

Identify examples of simple, compound, and irregular meters.

Transposition: Transpose a simple 4-measure piece with left hand chord patterns (I, IV, V) into keys to 4 sharps/flats

History: Know the five periods of music by date and name and know three composers from each period.
Composers to know: [Baroque (1600-1750)] J.S. Bach, Handel, Scarlatti; [Classical (1750-1820)] Mozart, Beethoven, Clementi; [Romantic (1800-1900)] Chopin, Tchaikowsky, Schumann; [Impressionistic (1900-1940)] Debussy, Ravel, Griffes; [Contemporary (1900-now)] Bartok, Kabalevsky, Hindemith, Bernstein, Gershwin

Analysis: Be able to apply previous requirements to an analysis of a given piece.

PERFORMANCE

Sight Reading: A piece in Major or minor keys, observing all markings

Transposition: Requirements same as WRITTEN Transposition.

Scales: Major, natural and harmonic minor to 7 sharps/flats, four octaves, up and down, hands together

Chords: Apply WRITTEN Harmony requirements to performance.

Arpeggios: Hands together, 2 octaves up and down in Major/minor keys to 7 sharps/flats

LISTENING

Intervals: Identify all Major, minor and Perfect intervals within the octave, plus tritone

Scales: Identify whether an octave scale is Major, natural minor, harmonic minor, whole tone, or chromatic.

Chords: Identify Major and minor triads in root position and first and second inversion.

Identify diminished and Augmented triads in root position.

Identify authentic, half, plagal, and deceptive cadences.

Rhythm: Identify 2-measure rhythms using the notes/rests listed above in WRITTEN Rhythm/Meter.

Melody: Identify 4 - 8 note melodies in Major/minor scales or limited chromatic alteration within an octave range.