Baylor University School of Music

Graduate Theory Diagnostic Exam

I. Exam format

The exam consists of two parts: aural and written. The aural portion tests your musicianship skills through dictation and aural analysis of music from the common practice period. The written portion, on the other hand, tests your analytical proficiency through score study. The information below provides more specifics about the exam:

Aural

Dictation

- Intervals: identification and notation of intervals from minor second to major tenth
- Melody: up to 10 measures long
- Rhythm: up to 8 measures long
- Two-part dictation: notate both parts of a contrapuntal example up to 6 measures in length
- Chord identification: identify chord quality (triads and seventh chords) and inversions
- Harmonic dictation: notate outer voices and analyze harmony with roman numeral symbols

Aural analysis

An example chosen from the tonal literature will be played. Questions concerning tonal/harmonic structure, compositional technique (sequence, pedal, motivic development, developmental procedures, imitation, etc.), and form will be addressed.

Written

Roman numeral analysis of a musical excerpt chosen from the literature. Questions on form and compositional technique (see preceding paragraph) may also be included.

II. Sources for study

Laitz and Bartlette, Graduate Review of Tonal Theory.

Kostka and Payne. Tonal Harmony.

Horvit, Koozin, and Nelson. Music for Ear Training.

Spencer and Temko. A Practical Approach to the Study of Form in Music.

Burkhart. Anthology for Musical Analysis.