The Music History and Literature Diagnostic Examination tests a student’s knowledge of western art music. The listening section consists of approximately a dozen musical examples representing historical periods from the medieval era to the twenty-first century. Students’ responses should demonstrate knowledge of musical style (form, harmony, melody, texture, etc.), and types of works associated with particular periods of time. Students will be asked to name probable composers and dates for each listening excerpt as well.

The listening and written portions of the Music History and Literature Diagnostic Examination assess knowledge of the following areas:

- Major composers and their significant areas of composition (e.g., symphony, string quartet, cantata, lieder, opera, etc.)
- Historical timeline and perspective (i.e., association of composers, types of works, style features, dates, philosophies and aesthetic values with particular periods)
- Major terms and musical forms from each time period and composers associated with them.

To prepare for these examinations, two textbooks would be helpful:

Burkholder, J. Peter; Grout, Donald Jay; and Palisca, Claude V. *A History of Western Music*.

Morgan, Robert. *Twentieth-Century Music*.