

KMTA Keyboard Festivals Music Theory Exam Overview

Please use the following list to determine the appropriate exam level for each student. More detailed information is found in the Study Guide for each level.

Disclaimer: the list is to be used as a guideline only--the actual exam questions may cover materials of similar level that are not necessarily listed here.

From Novice Level to Level 5, the majority of the questions will be multiple choice and matching terms and symbols.

Novice Level

- reading and writing exercises in both treble and bass clefs using up to one leger line below and above the staff
- basic musical terms such as treble clef, bass clef, time signature, key signature, accidental, leger line, allegro, adagio, fortissimo (ff), mezzo-piano (mp), etc.
- major scales and their key signatures up to three (3) sharps and flats
- whole step vs. half step
- rhythms as small as 8th notes

Level 1

- reading and writing exercises in both treble and bass clefs using up to two leger lines below and above the staff
- major scales and their key signatures up to four (4) sharps and flats
- intervals: whole step vs. half step; size (3rd, 4th, 5th etc.); the major or minor qualities of the third
- root position triads (major and minor)
- meter (compound and simple)
- various rhythms as small as 16th notes

Level 2

- reading and writing exercises in both treble and bass clefs and using up to three leger lines below and above the staff.
- ALL major scales and key signatures
- minor key signatures and scales (natural form only) up to 4 flats and sharps
- intervals: inversions; size and quality of interval (major, minor, perfect, augmented, and diminished)
- triads in inversion (major and minor only)
- tonic (I), dominant (V), and dominant 7th (V7) chords
- meter (compound and simple)
- rhythms including borrowed rhythms such as the triplet
- analysis of a short musical compositions determining key, chord functions (I, V, and V7) and phrases.

KMTA Keyboard Festivals Music Theory Exam Overview

Level 3

- ALL major and minor scales and key signatures
- all forms of the minor scales
- all modes
- advanced knowledge of intervals: chromatic vs. diatonic half steps; size and quality; inversions
- triads in inversion (major, minor, augmented, and diminished)
- seventh chords
- rhythm and meter including double dotted notes, asymmetrical meter as well as compound and simple.

Level 4

- all the materials covered in the first four levels (Novice to Level 3)
- the name of each scale degree
- the pentatonic, chromatic and whole-tone scales
- seventh chord quality and inversions
- rhythm and meter (adding bar lines where needed)

Level 5

- all the materials covered in the first five levels (Novice to Level 4)
- tenor and alto clefs
- difference between closed and open voicing of chords
- ninth chords
- secondary dominants
- cadences
- reading, using, and analyzing symbols for primary harmonies (simple part-writing examples)
- musical form and genre such as waltz, march, minuet, gigue, sarabande, invention, and prelude

Level 6

Although this test will include some multiple choice and matching questions, the majority of questions will be short answer and fill in the blank (or musical staff).

- all the materials covered in the first six levels (Novice to Level 5)
- exercises in melodic writing, harmonization, harmonic analysis, resolution of dissonant intervals, and part-writing
- overtone series
- melodic technique such as inversion, augmentation, diminution etc.
- non-chord (non-harmonic) tones such as passing tone, neighbor tone, appoggiature, suspension etc.