

Music History Post Test Information

Every senior must take the exam prior to graduation. A grade of 70 percent or higher is needed to satisfy this requirement. Students may test during the semester prior to their planned graduation. Respond by email of your intention to take the exam this semester and on which date.

New policy:

Any student can take the post-test only **two times** in any given semester, so come to the test fully prepared to pass the first time you take it. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Music History Post-Test information

The test will consist of multiple choice questions, listening section, score recognition section and will also have an essay writing component.

Review the following (available in all music history textbooks, so regardless with whom and where you studied you can be well-prepared):

Ancient Greek music and its influences on Medieval and Renaissance composers

Medieval music:

Gregorian chant; development of melodic and rhythmic notation and their influence on music developments; development of polyphony, all the major composers and styles; important music theorists; main musical centers (cities, countries)

Renaissance music:

Influence of printing on music; all the major stylistic developments and major composers; all the major genres; main musical centers (cities, countries)

Baroque:

Major stylistic developments, major composers and their works; all the major genres; development of new genres

Romanticism and Post-Romanticism:

Major stylistic developments, major composers and their works; developments of national style; correlation of music with other arts (with specific examples)

Impressionism, Expressionism, Neo-classicism:

Major stylistic characteristics for each of the above styles; major composers and their works; major social and political events influencing their development; correlation between music and other arts

In terms of score recognition and listening examples, you'll need to be able to differentiate between the major styles and major composers, including the time-periods and specific years, where applicable.

Essay questions:

All essays need to contain the following information:

Who (full name of the composer, years born-died)

What (genre, composition title, style)

When (year the work was composed, stylistic period of the work, or a century for the style period)

Where and for whom was the work composed (country, city, employer, whether it was commissioned, etc)

How (musical characteristics—this should be the longest portion of your answer)

1) Compare and contrast two works of the same genre from different stylistic periods, making sure you address the following questions for each work and then compare and contrast specific musical characteristics

2) Discuss a composition by any nineteenth century composer by placing it in its historiographical context.

For instance, if you choose a piece by any of The Russian Five, you'll need to discuss the political and cultural situation in Russia at that time, the role of nationalism, and the specifics of national style in terms of music.

3) List four important composers of the romantic period in chronological order and discuss their most significant works (one for each) in terms of musical style.

4) Discuss the differences between baroque, classicism, and romanticism on the example of a change in a particular genre (such as opera, sonata, etc). Use specific examples.

5) Discuss the major musical developments of the medieval period and the ways in which they influenced the development of later musical styles (for instance, how, why and where notation developed? what developed first and why--notation for melody or rhythm? How did both of these specifically influence musical styles? etc; or: How did the ideas of what is consonant and what is dissonant change in

the medieval period? Where did the consonant intervals as we know them today come from? How? What was the major political event contributing to the spread of consonant intervals throughout Europe?)

6) The first three decades of the 20th century witnessed three major musical styles. Make sure you can write about the basic musical characteristics of each, illustrating your points with the works by major composers writing in those styles.