

Advanced Placement Music Theory Frequently Asked Questions

What is AP Music Theory?

Learn to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score.

Develop your aural, sight-singing, written, compositional, and analytical skills through a series of listening, performance, written, creative, and analytical exercises.

Why should I take AP Music Theory?

Students who understand and are willing to accept that academic classes will become increasingly rigorous through high school and college often take AP classes to prepare themselves for these challenges. AP classes are weighted more than other classes and they look great on college applications if you're willing to put in the necessary work. The AP Exam, taken at the end of the year, offers the opportunity to earn college credit (often worth thousands of dollars in tuition) while still in high school.

How much and what type of work will I be doing?

A 90-minute class typically includes discussion and notes and lecture about a specific music topic for about 30 minutes. The remainder of the class is usually spent doing an activity such as singing a prepared piece.

You should expect to work one-to-two hours each night. Homework typically consists of a reading assignment or questions related to classroom assignments.

What are tests and quizzes like?

Quizzes will be given for each topic. You'll have tests at the end of each unit. The test typically includes multiple choice and problems. In mid-May, each student will take the AP Exam.

What is the AP Exam?

The AP Exam is the end-of-course test for AP Music Theory. It is administered by the College Board. There are two parts on the exam. Part I contains 75 multiple choice questions. Part II consists of 7 free-response questions and sight-singing. Part I counts for 45% of the score and part II counts for 55% of the score. Scores range from 1 to 5 and students who get a 3, 4, or 5 stand a good chance of receiving college credit for their score.

Who can I talk to if I need more information?

It's likely that some of your friends and acquaintances have taken an AP class before, and talking with them might give you an idea of what's in store. The best way would probably be to speak with Mrs. Lynn Ballou. You can email her at lynn.ballou@nn.k12.va.us. You can also visit the College Board's AP Statistics website here: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-music-theory>.

Information on AP courses was provided by The College Board. See [AP Courses](#) for more information.