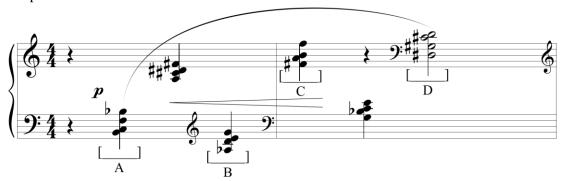
Graduate 20th-Century Theory Exam

The graduate 20th-century theory diagnostic examination includes a short multiple choice written exam (taking ninety minutes). The exam focuses on the basic material used in post-tonal music: pitch class set nomenclature and manipulation, basic twelve-tone theory, post-tonal scales/modes, and rhythmic techniques.

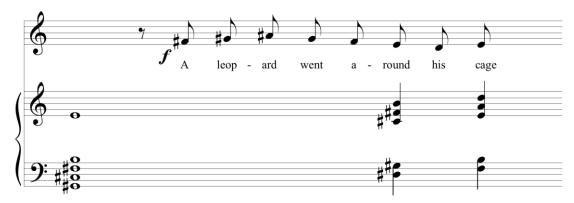
Sample Questions

Example 1:



- 1. Consider the pitches bracketed above the letters A, B, C, and D to belong to unordered pitch-class sets. How does D relate to A?
 - a. D is a transposition of A.
 - b. D is a transposed inversion of A.
 - c. D is the complement of A.
 - d. D is a subset of A.
 - e. None of the above.
- 2. Consider the pitches bracketed above the letters A, B, C, and D to belong to unordered pitch-class sets. How does C relate to B?
 - a. C is a transposition of B.
 - b. C is a transposed inversion of B.
 - c. C is the complement of B.
 - d. C is a subset of b.
 - e. None of the above.

Example 2:



- 3. The melodic pitches in the voice part of Example 2 belong to which of the following scales?
 - a. Dorian mode
 - b. Octatonic scale
 - c. Pentatonic scales
 - d. Phrygian mode
 - e. Whole tone scale.
- 4. Which term below best describes the harmonic structures in the piano part of Example 2?
 - a. Tone clusters
 - b. Tertian harmony
 - c. Quartal harmony
 - d. Polytonal harmony
 - e. Aleatoric harmony

Sample Resources

Sample Resources for the 20th-Century Theory Exam

Kostka, Materials and Techniques of Post-Tonal Music

Kostka/Payne, Tonal Harmony: With and Introduction to Twentieth Century Music

Lester, Analytic Approaches to Twentieth-Century Music

Roig-Francoli, Understanding Post-Tonal Music

N.B.: All sample resources listed are typical texts that are commonly used in undergraduate post-tonal music theory courses. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive of the exam content. Any textbooks or notes from your undergraduate post-tonal music theory courses would also be excellent review sources.