

Correct Answers to the SAMPLE Entrance Exam

Example 1

1. Choose the correct period for this work:

a) Medieval (Middle Ages)

b) Renaissance

c) Baroque

* the period between the fall of the Western Roman Empire around 450 c.e. and the Renaissance around 1450. Rudimentary music notation begins around 800.

2. Choose a likely composer for this work:

a) Du Fay

b) Gesualdo

c) Corelli

d) Anonymous

3. Which term best describes the genre of this work?

a) oratorio

b) Mass

c) motet

d) madrigal

* This is an Alleluia from the Mass Proper, the texts and music that change everyday. This one is for the Mass for Christmas Day. Note how elaborate the melody is.

4. In which location or venue would this work have been performed?

a) Catholic church

b) concert hall

c) aristocratic chambers or private home

d) theater

* The only Christian church in Europe during the Middle Ages.

5. To which tradition does this example belong?

a) plainchant

b) Notre Dame Polyphony

c) isorhythm

d) fugue

* not "Gregorian" chant, which is a specifically Roman tradition. This Alleluia happens to be from the Roman tradition, so it is "Gregorian" but plainchant is a better catch-all term.

Example 2

6. Choose the correct period for this work:

a) Medieval (Middle Ages)

b) Renaissance

c) Baroque

* note the frequent use of thirds and sixths, resulting in a sound we hear today as “consonant” and “sweet.” Note the four-part texture and free counterpoint.

7. Choose a likely composer for this work:

- _____ a) Du Fay b) Gesualdo c) Corelli d) Perotin

8. Which term best describes the genre of this work?

- a) oratorio b) Mass c) motet d) madrigal

* a sacred non-liturgical vocal work, usually in Latin. This one is also isorhythmic because it’s for a big ceremonial celebration (the consecration of the cathedral in Florence, the one with the awesome dome on top)

9. In which location or venue would this work have been performed?

- _____ a) Catholic church
b) concert hall
c) aristocratic chambers or private home
d) theater
-

Example 3

10. Choose the correct period for this work:

- a) Medieval (Middle Ages)
b) Renaissance

_____ c) Baroque

* note the combination of voices with instruments and the basso continuo at the bottom. That just screams out “I’m Baroque!”

11. Choose a likely composer for this work:

- a) de Vitry b) Handel c) Gesualdo d) Bach

* see the English text? Bach never wrote in English to the best of our knowledge

12. Which term best describes the genre of this work?

- _____ a) oratorio b) concerto c) motet d) Mass

* an unstaged, dramatic work for soloists, chorus, and instruments (usually orchestra). Handel’s are in English because the audience turned on him and decided it didn’t like opera any more. Fickle jerks.

13. In which location or venue would this work have been performed?

- a) Catholic church
_____ b) concert hall
c) aristocratic chambers or private home
d) Protestant church

14. Which of the following forms is most common in a work like this one?
- a) one of the formes fixes
 - b) sonata form
 - c) ritornello form
 - d) Da Capo aria form**

***just like in opera—it's the dominant form of the that genre**

Section 2

(Music after 1750)

Answer each question on your Answer Sheet

Example 1

1. Choose the correct period for this work:

- a) Classical
- b) early Romantic (before 1850)**
- c) late Romantic (after 1850)
- c) 20th Century

2. Choose a likely composer for this work:

- a) Schubert** b) Crumb c) Haydn d) Schoenberg

3. What genre best describes this work?

- a) opera
- b) art song**
- c) string quartet
- d) minimalist piece

*** a work for vocalist and accompaniment (most often piano), usually based on a highly literary text. This is *Erlkönig*, text by Goethe. It was Schubert's Op. 1, his first publication, and it remains one of his greatest and most familiar works.**

4. In which setting or venue would this work most likely have been performed?

- a) church
- b) public concert
- c) salon or private home**
- d) opera house

5. What is the role of the piano here?

- a) to provide background noise

- b) to give the singer pitches to match
c) to convey the emotion of the text
-

Example 2

5. Choose the correct period for this work:

- a) Classical**
b) early Romantic (before 1850)
c) late Romantic (after 1850)
c) 20th Century

6. Choose a likely composer for this work:

- a) Schubert b) Crumb **c) Haydn** d) Schoenberg

7. What genre best describes this work?

- a) opera b) art song **c) string quartet** d) minimalist piece

8. In which setting or venue would this work most likely have been performed?

- a) church
b) public concert
c) salon or private home
d) opera house

*** quartets were played in public concerts, but they were written for aristocratic, then bourgeois patrons to play at home in private gatherings.**

Example 3

10. Choose the correct period for this work:

- a) Classical
b) early Romantic (before 1850)
c) late Romantic (after 1850)
c) 20th Century

11. Choose a likely composer for this work:

- a) Schubert **b) Crumb** c) Haydn d) Schoenberg

*** note there's no obvious use of 12-tone technique here, and the demands made on the players are ridiculous (in the best sense of the word, of course). Crumb includes snatches of the chant "Dies irae" from the mass for the dead; that sort of intertextuality is very common in his work and that of other post-modernists.**

12. What genre best describes this work?

- a) opera b) art song **c) string quartet** d) minimalist piece

*** actually, "electric string quartet"**

13. In which setting or venue would this work most likely have been performed?

a) church

b) public concert

c) salon or private home

d) opera house

14. Which performance/compositional technique is evident here?

a) extended techniques

b) bel canto

c) minimalism

d) Sprechstimme

*** note that the composer asks the players to do all sorts of weird things like tap or knock on the wood of the instrument, or play tom tom, or count to 7 in Hungarian!**
