

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO**

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**GRADUATE DIAGNOSTIC EXAM STUDY GUIDE  
MUSIC THEORY**

Unless otherwise indicated, questions are multiple choice

1. Basic Elements
  - a. Indicate quality (e.g. major triad, diminished 7<sup>th</sup> chord) of chords written in open score. Notation includes C clefs.
  - b. Identify circled tones in an excerpt as types of non-chord (non-harmonic) tones (e.g. passing, neighboring, suspension)
2. Analysis of Harmony and Form
  - a. Identify cadences by type (e.g. perfect authentic, half, Phrygian) and keys in which they occur
  - b. Identify circled harmonies by harmonic analysts symbol (Roman numerals and figures bass). Harmonies include secondary dominants and leading tone sevenths, Neapolitan, augmented sixth.
  - c. Identify keys between which a modulation occurs; location a diatonic pivot (common) chord by which the modulation takes place, and explain its function in both keys.
  - d. Identify designated passages as smaller formal divisions or phrase combinations (e.g. motive, phrase, period, double period, repeated period, etc.)
3. Harmony and Voice Leading
  - a. Notate four-voice chords which correspond to given harmonic analysis symbols (e.g., G minor: V6/5 of III)
  - b. Harmonize melodic fragments in a given key using one or more specified chords.
  - c. Realize a figured bass by notating soprano, alto, and tenor voices and providing harmonic analysis.
4. Classical Forms. All questions refer to excerpts from the literature.
  - a. Identify form or compositional process of an entire movement (e.g. rondo, ternary, rounded binary, sonata, fugue, etc.)
  - b. From several summary analyses of a passage, choose the most correct.
  - c. For designated passages within an excerpt, indicate the structural function (e.g. principal theme, subordinate theme, introduction, transition, retransition, development, codetta, episode, etc.)
  - d. Identify, by correct term, specific compositional devices in particular passages (e.g. sequence, inversion, augmentation, diminution, retrograde, etc.)