

# Fundamentals Keyboard Exam

(practice version)

## Introductory comments:

Remember that not all of you will need to take this keyboard exam. Only if you pass the other three components of the exam (fluency, written, and ear training) will you be required to take the keyboard exam.

For those of you who do take this exam, here are the general requirements:

1. Scales: be prepared to play any of the following, with either right hand or left hand (one octave, ascending and descending):
  - a. all major scales
  - b. any minor scale in which the tonic is a white key on the piano (c, d, e, f, g, a, and b minor), in natural, harmonic or melodic forms
2. Intervals: SPELL and PLAY any perfect, major, or minor interval above or below a given pitch.
3. Given a major key, play the diminished fifth between scale degrees 7 and 4 in that key, and resolve it to scale degrees 1 and 3. Also be prepared to spell either 7-1 or 4-3 in that key. You may use one hand to play this exercise, or you may play scale degrees 7-1 in your left hand and 4-3 in your right hand.
4. SPELL AND PLAY any triad (major, minor, diminished, or augmented) above a given pitch.
5. Play a seventh chord (major, minor, dominant, diminished, half diminished) above a given pitch.
6. Be prepared to play a root-position major or minor triad in keyboard style (one voice in the left hand, three in the right hand), with the root, third, or fifth in the top voice, as requested.
7. Play a I-IV-V-I progression (i-iv-V-i if the key is minor), with good voice leading, in any key containing up to two sharps or flats. Be prepared to play the progression starting with either scale degree 1, 3, or 5 in the soprano. You should not use music for this; you will need to play the progression by memory. (See the Appendix to this document, which notates the progression for you in C major and a minor with all three soprano options.)

IMPORTANT: in order to pass the keyboard exam, you must earn 80 points (out of 100).

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**PRACTICE KEYBOARD EXAM:** (timings are indicated for each section. The timing refers to the entire question, not to the individual items within each question. For instance, for question A, you are expected to complete all five scales within 60 seconds.

A. Play the following scales (one octave, ascending and descending). (60 seconds)

*15 pts. (3 pts each)*

- (1) D major
- (2) E $\flat$  major
- (3) b natural minor
- (4) g melodic minor
- (5) G $\flat$  major

B. Given the lower pitch, play and spell (in that order) the following ascending intervals. (50 seconds)  
 9 pts. (1.5 pts. each)

M3                  M6                  m3                  P4                  m6                  m7

C. Given the upper pitch, play and spell (in that order) the following descending intervals. (50 seconds)  
 9 pts. (1.5 pts. each)

m3                  P5                  m2                  m6                  m7                  P4

D. Given a major key, play the diminished fifth between scale degrees  $\hat{7}$  and  $\hat{4}$  in that key, and resolve it to the third between scale degrees  $\hat{1}$  and  $\hat{3}$ . Also be prepared to spell either  $\hat{7}-\hat{1}$  or  $\hat{4}-\hat{3}$  in that key. (50 seconds) [NOTE: see the APPENDIX to this document for the solutions to the following.]

10 pts. (2 pts. each)

- (1) A major
- (2) D $\flat$  major
- (3) F major
- (4) D major
- (5) F $\sharp$  major

E. Given the root, SPELL and PLAY the following triads. (30 seconds)  
 12 pts. (2 pts. each)

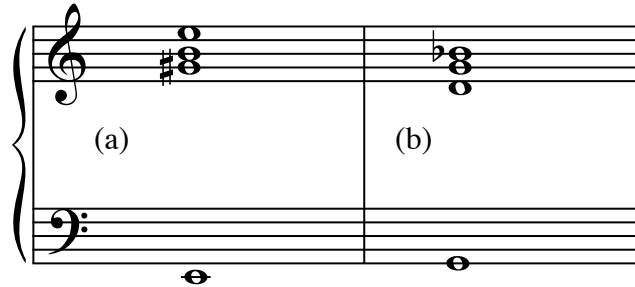
M                  m                  d                  A                  M                  m

F. Given the root, play the following seventh chords. You do not need to spell these chords. (40 seconds)  
 12 pts. (2 pts. each)

Dom7                  m7                   $\phi_7$                    $o_7$                   M7                  Dom7

G. Play a major or minor triad (as specified) in keyboard style in root position and with the specified chordal member in the soprano. For instance, if you are asked to play "E major, root in soprano", you'd play (a) below; for "g minor, 3rd on top", you'd play (b). NOTE: the octave placement of the chord doesn't matter; the left hand pitch could be played in a different octave; likewise for the right hand chord. (45 seconds)

12 pts. (2 pts. each)



- (1) f# minor, 5th on top    (2) E-flat major, 3rd on top    (3) b minor, root on top  
 (4) A major, 3rd on top    (5) b-flat minor, root on top    (6) F# major, fifth on top

H. Play three different I-IV-V-I progressions, as requested by the test administrator. \* (60 seconds)

\* The test administrator will tell you a key and the scale degree for the first soprano pitch. See the APPENDIX on the following page for the correct solutions in C major and a minor. You should be prepared to transpose all of those progressions to any key containing up to two sharps or flats.

21 pts. (2 pts. per chord, except the opening chord of each progression, which is 1 pt.)

Here's a sample of what you might be asked to play:

#1: I IV V I in D major, starting with root in the soprano

#2: i iv V i in e minor, starting with fifth in the soprano

#3: I IV V I in F major, starting with third in the soprano

## APPENDIX to keyboard exam

Note: since the keyboard test will be taken only by those students who have already passed the other three components, we have not provided solutions for any questions except for Question D. In addition, you will find below the progressions for Question H notated in C major and a minor.

Question D: solutions

A major	Db major	F major	D major	F# major

Question H: The following shows the progression in C major, starting with scale degrees 1, 3, or 5, as specified in the directions. You should be prepared to transpose any of these progressions to the following major keys: G, D, F, Bb

$\hat{1}$	$\hat{3}$	$\hat{5}$
C: I IV V I I IV V I I IV V I		

Here's the same progression in a minor; be prepared to transpose to e, b, d, or g minor.

a: i iv V i i iv V i i iv V i		