Sample Test Questions

Music: General
SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS

The sample test questions in this document are designed to give you an introduction to the nature of the questions included in the Washington Educator Skills Tests—Endorsements (WEST–E). They represent the various types of questions you may expect to see on an actual test in this test field; however, they are not designed to provide diagnostic information to help you identify specific areas of individual strength or weakness or to predict your performance on the test as a whole.

Work through the sample questions carefully before referring to the answer key that follows. The answer key provides the correct response for each question and lists the objective within the test framework to which each question is linked. When you are finished with the sample questions, you may wish to review the test objectives and descriptive statements provided in the test framework for this test field.

In addition to reading and answering the sample questions, you should also utilize the following preparation materials available on the WEST Web site:

- Read WEST–E Test-Taking Strategies to understand how test questions are designed to measure specific test objectives and to learn important test-taking strategies for the day of the test.

- Review the Test Summary and Framework for your test field to familiarize yourself with the structure and content of the test. This document contains general testing information as well as the percentage of the total test score derived from each content domain described in the test framework.

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SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following melodic intervals is demonstrated in this example? (The example will be played twice.)

   (The examinee listens to a recording of two consecutive pitches that represent the interval of a perfect fourth.)

   A. minor third
   B. perfect fourth
   C. perfect fifth
   D. minor sixth

2. Which of the following instruments plays the melody in this excerpt? (The excerpt will be played twice.)

   (The examinee listens to a 30-second excerpt from a work featuring an oboe solo.)

   A. bassoon
   B. clarinet
   C. oboe
   D. flute

3. Which of the following composers most likely wrote the music in this excerpt? (The excerpt will be played twice.)

   (The examinee listens to a 25-second excerpt from Adoramus Te by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.)

   A. Pérotin
   B. Scarlatti
   C. Monteverdi
   D. Palestrina
4. In which of the following measures does the pianist make an error in pitch? (The example will be played twice.)

(The examinee listens to a recording of the musical score printed above. The pianist plays a B in the melody of measure 6.)

A. measure 2
B. measure 3
C. measure 5
D. measure 6
5. Use the information below to answer the question that follows.

In the measure shown above, what note is the cello supposed to play?

A. A-flat
B. C
C. E-flat
D. F
6. Use the example below to answer the question that follows.

Which of the following symbols best describes the chord shown above?

A. iv\(^7\)

B. V\(^6\)

C. iii\(^9\)

D. VII\(^7\)
7. Use the example below to answer the question that follows.

![Music notation]

The oboist is directed to pause at which of the following points in this example?

A. beginning of measure 1
B. end of measure 2
C. beginning of measure 3
D. middle of measure 4

8. Which of the following devices do composers use in a musical work as a framework for improvisation?

A. figured bass
B. augmentation
C. free counterpoint
D. inversion
9. Which of the following is a medieval vocal music form that was most associated with the plainchant?
   A. madrigal
   B. ballad
   C. motet
   D. rondeau

10. Which of the following composers is considered to be one of the founders of Big Band jazz in the United States?
    A. Dizzy Gillespie
    B. Billy Eckstine
    C. Miles Davis
    D. Duke Ellington

11. Which of the following characteristics is prominently featured in the traditional music of Japan?
    A. pentatonic melodies
    B. polyrhythms
    C. microtones
    D. rhythmic vocals

12. A composer who is creating an SAB choral work decides to write a passage in which the sopranos and altos sing without the lower voice. Which of the following qualities of the music will this composition choice affect most significantly?
    A. rhythm
    B. melody
    C. timbre
    D. harmony

13. Use the example below to answer the question that follows.

The range shown above is most characteristic of which of the following instruments?
    A. clarinet
    B. alto saxophone
    C. bassoon
    D. French horn
14. When preteen singers use their head voices, the tonal quality they produce can best be described as:
   A. light and forward.
   B. strained.
   C. loud and raspy.
   D. inconsistent.

15. Which of the following elements of musical performance do technical drills typically address?
   A. blend
   B. articulation
   C. balance
   D. intonation

16. Use the example below to answer the question that follows.

When an E-flat alto saxophone plays the note shown above, which of the following pitches will sound?

A. 
B. 
C. 
D. 
17. When conducting, a director will demonstrate the ictus to an ensemble for the purpose of indicating:

A. the end of a section in the music.
B. a rhythmic change into triplets.
C. a softer level of dynamics.
D. the recurring pulse of the music.

18. To assess the harmony of a song, an individual would typically consider which of the following types of musical characteristics?

A. pulse, accent, fast
B. beat, pacing, stress
C. sequence, phrase, leaps
D. progression, voices, motion

19. Just as impressionist artists tried to show the changing effects of color and light in painting, impressionist composers explored the use of:

A. new combinations of instrumental timbres.
B. syncopation.
C. rapid changes in the dynamics of orchestral works.
D. atonality.

20. Familiarity with computers, Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI), and music notation software would be especially important for a person who wants to be successful in which of the following music professions?

A. concert promoter
B. educational composer
C. piano tuner
D. music license administrator
### ANSWER KEY

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