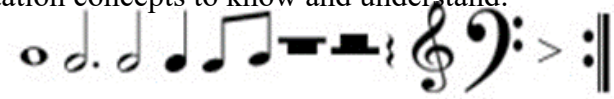
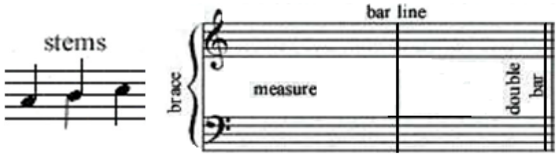
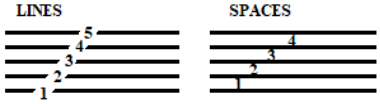
Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADES 3 & BELOW

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a.  Introduce the concept of stem direction rules.
   b. Dynamics: *f mf mp p*
   c. Notes on grand staff from Low F to High G, including inner ledger lines (D, C, B).
   d. Staff and grand staff stem placement.

   e. Spaces and Lines. 

   f. Accidentals: ♯ ♭ ♮
   g. Intervals: 2nd (step), 3rd (skip), repeated notes.

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Time signatures: 2/4/, 3/4, 4/4.
   b. Time extensions: fermata , tied notes.

3. Triad concepts to know and understand:
   a. Name, spell, write and identify triads in keys of F, C, G major and minor.

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify, write and name five-note scales in keys of F, C, G major and minor using accidentals.

Ear Training

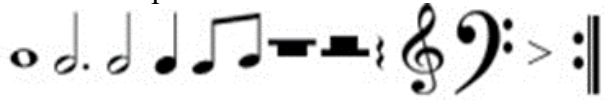
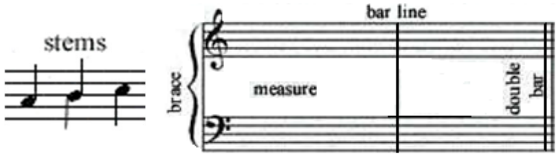
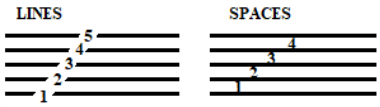
1. Recognize rhythms that are either “the same” or “different” in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4.
2. Recognize high and low pitch.
3. Recognize direction of melody, ascending or descending.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 4

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a.  Reinforce the concept of stem direction rules.
   b. Dynamics: *f mf mp p*
   c. Notes on grand staff from Low F to High G, including inner ledger lines (D, C, B).
   d. Staff and grand staff stem placement.

   e. Spaces and Lines. 

   f. Accidentals: ♯ ♭ ♮
   g. Intervals: 2nd (step), 3rd (skip), repeated notes.

1. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Time signatures: 2/4/, 3/4, 4/4.
   b. Time extensions: fermata , tied notes.

2. Triad concepts to know and understand:
   a. Name, spell, write and identify triads in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B major and minor.

3. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify, write and name five-note scales in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B major and minor using accidentals.

Ear Training

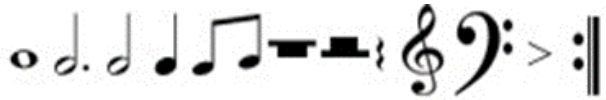
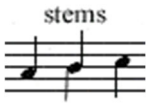
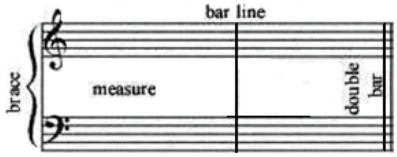
1. Recognize rhythms that are either "the same" or "different" in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4.
2. Recognize high and low pitch.
3. Recognize direction of melody, ascending or descending.

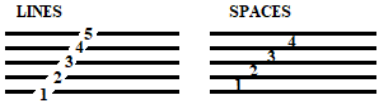
Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

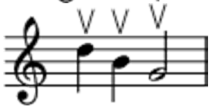
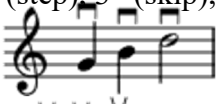
GRADE 5

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a.  Reinforce the concept of stem direction rules.
   a. Dynamics: ***f mf mp p***
   b. Notes on grand staff from Low F to High G, including inner ledger lines (D, C, B).
   c. Staff and grand staff stem placement.



   a. Spaces and Lines. 

   b. Accidentals: ♯ ♭ ♮
   c. Intervals: 2nd (step), 3rd (skip), repeated notes.
   d. Down bow:
   e. Up bow: 

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Time signatures: 2/4/, 3/4, 4/4
   b. Time extensions: fermata , tied notes.

3. Triad concepts to know and understand:
   a. Name, spell, write and identify triads in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B major and minor.

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write the key signatures of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B major. For minor, identify only.
   b. Identify, write and name five-note scales in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B, major using key signatures or accidentals. For minors use accidentals only.

Ear Training

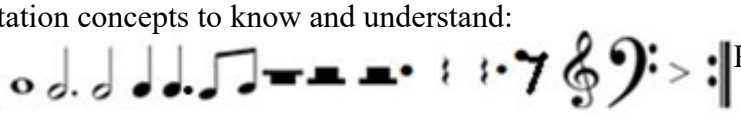
1. Recognize rhythms that are either "the same" or "different" in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4.
2. Recognize high and low pitch.
3. Recognize direction of melody, ascending or descending.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 6

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a.  Reinforce the concept of stem direction rules.
   b. Dynamics: *f mf mp p*
   c. Notes on grand staff from Low F to High G, including inner ledger lines (D, C, B).
   d. Accidentals: ♯ ♭ ♮
   e. Intervals: melodic and harmonic 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th.
   f. Pedal indications: Ped. ✻, P. ,

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Time signatures: 2/4/, 3/4, 4/4, 6/4, 3/8, 6/8.
   b. Time extensions: fermata , tied notes.
   c. Identify an upbeat.

3. Triad concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify, write, name and spell triads in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B major and minor.

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write the key signatures of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B major. For minor, identify only.
   b. Identify, write and name five-note scales in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B, major using key signatures or accidentals. For minors use accidentals only.

Ear Training

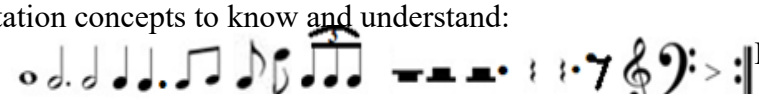
1. Recognize highness or lowness of pitch using wide intervals.
2. Recognize five-note major and minor scales.
3. Recognize major and minor triads in root position.
4. Recognize these intervals: M2, m2, M3, m3, ascending and descending.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 7

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a.  Reinforce the concept of stem direction rules.
   b. Dynamics: *ff f mf mp p pp*
   c. Notes on the grand staff from bass ledger C to treble C, plus inner ledger lines.
   d. Accidentals: ♯ ♭ ♮
   e. Intervals: melodic and harmonic 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th.
   f. Pedal indications: Ped.
2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Time signatures: 2/4/, 3/4, 4/4, 6/4, 3/8, 6/8.
   b. Time extensions: fermata , tied notes.
   c. Identify an upbeat.
3. Triad concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify, write, name and spell root-position triads in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db(C#) major and minor. Db major only.
   b. Identify and write in the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db(C#) major and minor I-V_6-I or I-$V_{6/5}$-I cadences. Identify each root by Roman numeral and letter name.

   Example in the key of C Major:

Chord:	CEG	BDG	BFG
Roman numeral:	I	V_6	$V_{6/5}$
Letter name:	C	G_6	$G_{6/5}$

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write the keys of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db(C#) major and minor. Db major only.
   b. Know the concept of the Circle of Fifths in major keys.
   c. Identify the scales of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db(C#) major and minor.
   d. Write the scales of: F, C, G, D, A, E, B, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db major.
5. Form concepts:
   a. Know the concept of Simple Binary form (A:||B:||).

Ear Training

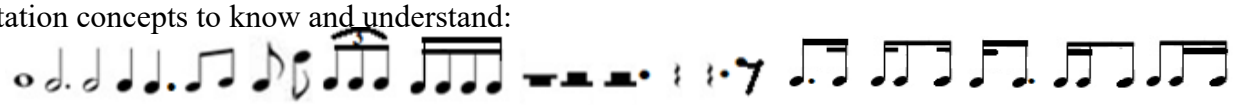
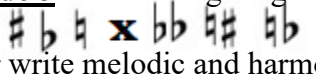
1. Recognize highness or lowness of pitch using wide and close intervals.
2. Recognize major and minor scales and triads in root position.
3. Recognize these intervals: M2, m2, M3, m3, P5, M6, m6, P8, ascending and descending.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 8

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a. 
   b. Reinforce **Grade 3** note reading range with increased use of inner, upper and lower ledger lines.
   c. Accidentals: 
   d. Identify and/or write melodic and harmonic intervals within an octave by size.
   e. Know previous dynamics symbols and pedal indications from previous grades.

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Time signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 ( ), 6/4, 3/8, 6/8, 2/2 ( )
   b. Time extensions: fermata, tied notes, dotted notes and rests.
   c. Identify an upbeat.

3. Triad and cadence concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write root-position triads in all major and minor keys.
   b. Identify and write I-IV$_{6/4}$-I-V$_{6}$ or V$_{6/5}$-I cadences in all major and minor keys. Identify the root of each chord by Roman numeral and letter name. Use key signatures.

Example in the key of C Major:							
Chord:	CEG	CFA	CEG	BDG	or	BFG	CEG
Roman numeral:	I	IV$_{6/4}$	I	V$_{6}$	or	V$_{6/5}$	I
Letter name:	C	F$_{6/4}$	C	G$_{6}$	or	G$_{6/5}$	C

4. Key signature concepts:
   a. Identify and write key signatures for all major and minor keys.
   b. Have a thorough understanding of the Circle of Fifths in major keys.
   c. Identify and write scales in all major and minor keys.

5. Form Concepts:
   a. Know preceding form: Simple Binary (A:||:B:||) and Rounded Binary (A:||:BA':||).

Ear Training

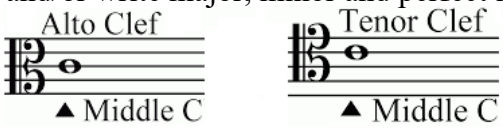
1. Recognize major and minor scales and root-position triads.
2. Recognize I-V6-I or I-V6/5-I progressions in all major keys.
3. Recognize these intervals: M2, m2, M3, m3, P5, M6, m6, M7, m7, P8, ascending and descending.
4. Recognize dominant, subdominant and tonic chords: I-IV6/4-I-V6-I or I-IV6/4-I-V6/5-I
5. Recognize melodic rhythm patterns in 3/4 and 4/4 meter.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 9

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know note and rest values from previous grades.
   b. Know full reading range.
   c. Identify and/or write major, minor and perfect intervals within an octave.
   d. C clefs: 

   e. Reinforce the concept of staff and grand staff stem placement and staff and grand staff stem placement when writing chords, harmonic intervals, and scales when using a different note value other than whole notes.

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know time signatures from previous grades.
   b. Know duration extensions (fermata, tie, dot, etc.).
   c. Know variations of rhythm patterns, changing meters within a piece, irregular meter. Should have ability to bring all concepts together, including meter, counting, time signatures, and rhythmic notation.

3. Triad and cadence concepts
   a. Identify and write major and minor triads in all keys, root position, first inversion, and second inversion. Identify root by letter name.
   b. Identify and write I-IV$_{6/4}$-I-V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-I or i-iv$_{6/4}$-i- V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-i cadences, root position in all major and minor keys.
   c. Identify the root of each chord by Roman numeral and/or letter name in all major and minor keys.

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write key signatures for all major and minor keys.
   b. Know the Circle of Fifths for major and minor keys.
   c. Know the order of sharps and flats.
   d. Identify and write scales in all major and minor keys.

5. Form concepts:
   a. Know preceding forms: Simple Binary (A:||:B:||), Rounded Binary (A:||:BA':||) and Ternary (ABA), with option for introduction and coda.

Ear Training

1. Recognize major and minor triads.
2. Recognize I-V$_{6/5}$-I and I-IV$_{6/4}$-I progression in all major keys.
3. Recognize these intervals: M2, m2, M3, m3, P4, P5, M6, m6, M7, m7, P8, ascending and descending.
4. Recognize the same or different rhythm patterns.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 10

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know notation concepts from previous grades. Reinforce the concept of stem direction rules.
   b. Identify and/or write major, minor, perfect, augmented, diminished intervals within an octave.

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know rhythm and meter concepts from previous grades.

3. Triad and cadence concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write triads on each degree of major and minor scales.
   b. Identify the root by Roman numeral, chord letter and quality (M, m, P, Aug., dim.).
   c. Identify and write augmented and diminished triads.
   d. Identify and write I-IV$_{6/4}$-I-V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-I or i-iv$_{6/4}$-i- V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-i cadences in root position, in all major and minor keys.
   e. Identify the root of each chord by Roman numeral and/or letter name. in all major and minor keys.

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write key signatures for all major and minor keys.
   b. Know the Circle of Fifths for major and minor keys.
   c. Know the order of sharps and flats.
   d. Identify and write all major and minor scales.
   e. Know degree names of a major and minor scale: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Sub-Dominant, Dominant, Sub-Mediant and Leading Tone (Sub-Tonic).

5. Form concepts to know:
   a. Know preceding forms: Simple Binary (A:||:B:||), Rounded Binary (A:||:BA':||), Ternary (ABA), and Theme and Variations (Theme, Variation I, II, etc.), with option for introduction and coda.

Ear training

1. Recognize major and minor triads.
2. Recognize I-V$_{6/5}$-I and I-IV$_{6/4}$-I progression in all major keys.
3. Recognize these intervals: M2, m2, M3, m3, P4, P5, M6, m6, M7, m7, P8, ascending and descending.
4. Recognize the same or different rhythm patterns.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 11

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know preceding notation concepts.

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know preceding rhythm/meter concepts.
   b. Identify and/or write unusual accents.

3. Triad and cadence concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know preceding triads and cadence concepts.
   b. Write Dominant Seventh chords, root position. Identify root by letter name.

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write key signatures for all major and minor keys.
   b. Know the Circle of Fifths for major and minor keys.
   c. Know the order of sharps and flats.
   d. Identify and write all major and minor scales.
   e. Know degree names of a major and minor scale: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Sub-Dominant, Dominant, Sub-Mediant and Leading Tone (Sub-Tonic).
   f. Identify and write chromatic scales starting in any white key (ascending and descending).

5. Form concepts:
   a. Know preceding forms: Simple Binary (A:||:B:||), Rounded Binary (A:||:BA':||), Ternary (ABA), Theme and Variations (Theme, Variation I, II, etc.), and Sonata-allegro.

Ear training

1. Recognize I-IV$_{6/4}$-I-V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-I or i-iv$_{6/4}$-i- V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-i chord progressions in all keys.
2. Recognize intervals of the major and harmonic minor scales, ascending and descending.
3. Recognize major scales and harmonic minor scales.

Pre-College Written Theory
REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 12

Students who take the MMTA Written Theory Exam are responsible for knowing the theory and music history information in the grade they enter and ALL previous grades.

Written Theory

1. Notation concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know preceding notation concepts.

2. Rhythm/meter concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know preceding rhythm/meter concepts.

3. Triad and cadence concepts to know and understand:
   a. Know preceding triads and cadence concepts.
   b. Identify these non-harmonic tones/non-chord tones: PASSING TONE (PT), APPOGGIATURA (App.), UPPER NEIGHBOR (UN), LOWER NEIGHBOR (LN), and SUSPENSION (SUS.).

4. Key signature concepts to know and understand:
   a. Identify and write key signatures for all major and minor keys.
   b. Know the Circle of Fifths for major and minor keys.
   c. Know the order of sharps and flats.
   d. Identify and write all major and minor scales.
   e. Know degree names of a major and minor scale: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Sub-Dominant, Dominant, Sub-Mediant and Leading Tone (Sub-Tonic).
   f. Identify and write chromatic scales starting in any white key (ascending and descending).

5. Form concepts:
   a. Know preceding forms: Simple Binary, Rounded Binary, Ternary, Theme and Variations and Sonata-allegro.

Ear training

1. Recognize major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads.
2. Recognize intervals of the major and harmonic minor scales, ascending and descending.
3. Rhythm dictation in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 meter using equivalent rests.
4. Recognize I-IV$_{6/4}$-I-V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-I or i-iv$_{6/4}$-i- V$_6$ or V$_{6/5}$-i chord progressions in all keys.
5. Recognize major, harmonic minor, and chromatic scales.