Queens College

Aaron Copland School of Music

Graduate Entrance Exam: Sample Theory Test Description

There are three parts to the theory quiz for MM applicants:

Part I: Key signatures

You will be asked to supply the key signatures for several major and minor keys. A treble clef is

given.

Part II: Triads

You will be asked to build major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads. For each triad, the

root is given. There are no key signatures; you are required to use only accidentals.

Part III: Dissonant chords and their resolutions within a key

On the grand staff, with a given key, you will see several four-note chords in SATB spacing.

You will be asked to identify the chord using Roman numerals, figured-bass numerals, or some

combination of the two. Then you must resolve the chord in the simplest, most typical way.

Resources for studying: https://www.teoria.com/

https://www.musictheory.net/

https://music-theory-practice.com/