

THEORY TEST - TMTA/SA

Purpose:

To provide an opportunity for students to test their knowledge and mastery of music theory and aural training skills. To provide an overall scope and sequence of teaching music theory and aural training for the private music instructor.

Eligibility:

Student Affiliate membership required. Any student of a TMTA teacher who participates in theory test **prior to enrolling as an SA member** will be penalized with a special processing fee and a late-dues payment (see TMTA-SA Handbook). The teacher will also be assessed a hefty fine (see TMTA-SA Handbook) per activity for each student or group of students not enrolled. *No score or record of participation will be entered in state records until dues and fees have been received.*

1. To take the Theory test through CCMTA, students must be enrolled as a State-level Student Affiliate with CCMTA (i.e., CCMTA is their primary SA membership).
2. ***Theory Eligibility - Students must pass the Theory Test (score of 70 or above) to participate in any of the following 3 events:***

TMTA Original Composition Contest
TMTA Performance Contest
Ensembles for Convention

To be eligible for the above activities, students in:

- A. 1st grade - must have a 70 or better on the first grade theory test.
- B. 2nd-4th grades - must have a 70 or better on the current grade level, or ONE grade below.
- C. 5th -12th grades - must pass the test (70 or better) at a minimum of grade level 4. Such students must advance at least one level higher each successive year and may skip levels until they reach their current grade level. See TMTA-SA Handbook for detailed rules.
- D. Post -12th grade students are exempt from the theory requirements.

Criteria:

All tests will be graded by other volunteer MTA's in the State of Texas and will take 6-8 weeks to complete. Awards are as follows:

A score of 98-101 = Gold medal.
A score of 94-97 = Silver medal.
A score of 90-93 = Bronze medal.
A score of 70 or higher is considered "passing".

Special Instructions:

1. Testing time for each grade level will vary, but generally Levels 1-3 should take less than an hour. Upper levels will take longer.
2. Students are assigned a time to arrive (by test level) and students in levels 4-12 may leave as soon as they are finished with the exam. Students in levels 1-3 will be dismissed as a class and the examiner will escort them to their parents for sign-out.
3. Teachers please download and photocopy “Theory Test Map, SAT” and/or “Theory Test Map, SUN” and fill in the test date. Then photocopy enough for every student and hand out to parents the week before the exam.
4. Parents who choose to wait while the test is given will have a designated waiting area. (Parents will not be allowed in the testing area).

Students are requested to bring:

- A. Two sharpened pencils with good erasers.
- B. One clipboard to write on. The clipboards must be free of markings that could help with answers on the test.
- C. If a student brings a cell phone, the phone must be completely turned off during the test.

What If?

What if a student is ill or has an emergency and misses both test dates? The student will either forfeit the test or the teacher may contact the “Theory Test Day” Chairman (see Yearbook for name) to see if the student’s excuse qualifies for participation at another MTA’s theory test.

Teachers, please be aware that additional fees may be assessed by the host MTA. When students test at another MTA testing site, there is no guarantee that the student’s score will be reported with the CCMTA scores. Therefore, it will be the teacher’s responsibility to be sure that the student’s test score is reported to the “Theory Registration” Chair (see Yearbook) in time for medal ordering.

Test Day Set Up:

1. **Students should arrive 10 minutes earlier than their assigned test level check-in.** (Please note, “test level” may be different than the actual grade level of the student).
2. Parents of students levels 1-3 will check-in and check-out their children at registration.
 - A. Students in levels 1-3 will check-in and will receive a line-up number.
 - B. When called to line-up, students in levels 1-3 will order themselves by number and follow a teacher to the exam room.
3. Parents will not be allowed in the exam room.
4. Levels 1-3 will have all testing (written and aural) done in the same room, and will be dismissed as a group, and escorted back to their parents for sign-out.
5. Students in Levels 4-12 may leave after they complete their test.
6. Students in Levels 8–12 will also have the opportunity to earn bonus points by doing a short individual rhythm or sight-singing test.

Registration: [On-Line Registration at CCMTA.org](http://CCMTA.org) - To register go to Member → Forms,
→Theory test registration.

To make registration EASY – do the following FIRST

1. On a sheet of paper - Group students by **test level** (not grade level). Then within test level list alphabetically by last name.
2. Determine the number of students, and the check number and amount.
3. On the 1st student you enter, fill out the entire questionnaire (email, number of students entering, check number, days you will work, etc), after that, each subsequent registration need only the student information and teacher last name (1st initial is only needed if you share the same last name with someone else), and CCMTA number. You do not need to enter the number of students, email address, check amount, day you will work, and test job each time.
4. Please be sure you spell the student's name correctly or use the same name you used to enroll them in Student Affiliate. If the Student Affiliate name is Thomas James, then the theory test cannot be Tommy James.
5. If you make an error, just re-enroll the student again and email the Chair which entry to delete. You cannot delete or change an entry yourself once you submit it. The chair needs the changes in writing.
6. **If you wish to have a record of your student registrations:** Once you are finished enrolling students, please send an email to the Chair indicating you would like a spreadsheet. The Chair will then within 24 hours send you a spread sheet of your registration information. It is the teacher's responsibility to ask for this because it is not apparent on the big spreadsheet who has and has not received a record of their registrations. Please be patient with the Chair, as this is a big job.
7. Send/give 1 check, made out to **CCMTA**, to the "Theory Registration" Chairman (see Yearbook). Please indicate number of students you are registering for theory on the memo line. (See Deadlines for fees amount).

Teachers Jobs:

1. All participating teachers are required to help a minimum of 4 hours at this event, (even if only 1 student is registered).
2. Job descriptions and assignments will be sent to members a week before the exam.
3. **Standing rule #7 will be upheld** – (See CCMTA Standing Rules) "All members of CCMTA entering students in FESTIVALS, CONTESTS or THEORY EXAMS must be available to assist at these events for a minimum of 4 hours. Only a personal or family emergency beyond a member's control is a legitimate reason for a teacher not to participate. It is that teacher's responsibility to enlist another member of CCMTA, not already participating in said event,* to take his or her place. This is done with prior knowledge and consent of the event chairman, the Student Affiliate Chairman, and the President. The member finding the replacement will still be required to assist either before or after the event as needed by the chairman. If a member fails to comply with the above rules, he or she will not be allowed to enter students in said event the following year.

** Since there are 2 days involved in theory testing, the substitute may be a teacher who is working the test on a DIFFERENT day. No teacher may work their shift and substitute for another teacher's shift on the same day.*

Awards:

1. Medals will be available for students by late April.
2. Teachers may print out certificates of achievement by going to www.tmta.org. See TMTA-SA Handbook for more details.
3. TMTA will keep a record of students' scores as they progress through school, but it is highly recommended that teachers also keep records. Record forms may be downloaded from the TMTA website.
4. Applications for the Loving-Mansfield, Mansfield, Genda Lanier Theory Award and the Twelve-Year & Six-Year Theory awards may be found on the TMTA website.

Loving-Mansfield Gold Medal Award: Graduating senior who has received gold medals in levels 1-12. Plaque and *\$300.00 award.

Mansfield Gold Medal Award: Graduating senior who has received consecutive gold medals in levels 4-12. Plaque and *\$200.00 award.

Twelve-year Medals Award: Graduating senior earning a medal (bronze, silver, or gold) for 12 levels. Plaque and \$50 award.

Glenda Lanier Theory Award: Graduating senior earning gold medals in levels 9-12. Plaque and a \$50 award.

Twelve-year Participation Certificate: Graduating senior who passed (70 or better) all 12 levels of the theory test.

***All monetary awards current thorough 2016. Amounts subject to change.**

Coda:

Teachers will be notified where they may pick up their students' graded tests and medals (either at the Music Rack, or at the Theory Co-Chair's house).