

THEORY TEST - TMTA/SA FAST FACTS

1. Theory Chairman, dates, times, location, fees, and deadlines are listed in the Yearbook.

2. What is the Theory Test?

It is a test developed by TMTA that covers information in the TMTA Manual/Glossary. Students, grades 1-12, are tested on music theory knowledge, terminology, and aural training skills.

3. When is the Theory Test offered?

The theory test is given in the Fall and Spring. Students may elect to take just one exam, or take the test in the Fall and retest in the Spring. The highest score from either test is what is recorded in the student's record.

4. Who takes the Theory Test?

Any student who is registered as a TMTA Student Affiliate may enroll in the Theory Test. Students must enroll in their current grade level in order for their test scores to qualify for a medal.

5. Who grades the Theory Tests?

Tests are sent to volunteer graders all over the state of Texas. This process is quite extensive so that no one is grading the test of someone they know. Test scores come back via email first and then the actual tests are sent back to the association to be handed back to the students.

6. Besides learning valuable knowledge, how are students rewarded?

Students who take the test on their grade level and score a 90 or above receive the State Whitlock medal (Gold medal = scores of 98-101; Silver medal = 94-97; Bronze medal = 90-93. Students who score 70 or above, pass the exam and receive a certificate and are eligible to participate in other TMTA-SA activities. Records are kept from year to year and students who receive a medal (bronze, silver, gold) every year from 1st-12th grades are awarded the Twelve-Year Plaque. Other awards include: Loving-Mansfield Gold Medal Theory Award (Gold medals grades 1st-12th); Mansfield Gold Medal Theory Award (Gold medals grades 4-12); Glenda Lanier Theory Award (Gold medals grades 9-12), Theory Achievement Senior Award (medals earned for 4 different levels of theory within Levels 1-10 as well as gold medals in 11th and 12th grades), 12-Year Participation Certificate (Seniors that passed all 12 levels of theory), and the Theory Achievement Senior Certificate (medals earned in 4 different grade levels maintaining their SA membership through graduation). See the TMTA handbook for further details.

7. What if I have a later beginner (grades 5-12)?

Students may test below grade level and earn the Theory Achievement Medal (TAM) which is different from the Whitlock medal earned by students testing on-grade level. Students may earn two medals a year, if they test a different grade levels each testing session.

8. How do I help my student(s) prepare?

There are sample tests from past years that may be ordered from TMTA. Old tests may also be download for practice from TMTA.org. Teachers may purchase a Theory/ Glossary manual from TMTA that will function as a reference guide. There are numerous theory workbooks (ask a "seasoned" theory teacher for their favorite titles).

9. How does the teacher help at exam time?

Every teacher who registers students to take the Theory Test is expected to help a minimum of 4 hours with the test, even if they only register one student.