

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 a medal. 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 only 1st-12th grades); Mansfield Gold Medal Theory Award (Gold medals only in grades 4-12); and the Six-Year Award (a medal for all four levels of either the Instrumental or Vocal examinations plus a gold medal for Whitlock levels 11 and 12). Students who pass all twelve levels of the theory tests receive a Twelve-Year Participation Certificate.

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

Students in grades 5-12 may take the TMTA Theory Test beginning with Grade 4 regardless of their grade in school. They will **not receive a medal, however, unless they take the test at their grade level** as indicated on the Student Affiliate Form. All students who take the Theory Test must **first** be registered as a Student Affiliate.

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

There are sample tests from past years that may be ordered from TMTA. You can also download practice tests from TMTA.org. Teachers may purchase a Theory/ Glossary manual from TMTA that will function as a reference guide. There are numerous theory workbooks available at the music store (ask a "seasoned" theory teacher for their favorite titles). Students can also participate in extracurricular music theory classes offered in various private studios over the summer.

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. Job descriptions are handed out prior to the test and it takes **ALL** teachers helping to make the test run smoothly.