

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Why Does Jazz Tension Work? Advanced Harmonic Analysis for Grade 12

Go beyond basic triads to analyze secondary dominants and modal interchange. Real-world score analysis challenges replace standard scale identification.

1. In the context of the Tristan chord (F-B-D#-G#), how does its functional ambiguity serve as a catalyst for the transition from the Romantic era to early 20th-century atonality?

Answer: B) It delays resolution indefinitely, prioritizing color over traditional functional progression.

The Tristan chord is historically significant for its lack of immediate resolution, which weakened the grip of traditional functional harmony and paved the way for modernism.

2. A(n) _____ sixth chord is characterized by the presence of a natural sixth (relative to the bass) in addition to the augmented sixth, functioning as a predominant chord.

Answer: C) German

The German sixth chord contains a flattened submediant, the tonic, the flattened third, and the augmented sixth (e.g., Ab-C-Eb-F# in C), distinguishing it from the Italian and French varieties.

3. In a Schenkerian analysis, the 'Urlinie' represents the fundamental top-line melodic descent that captures the deep structure of a tonal composition.

Answer: A) True

Schenkerian theory posits that tonal masterpieces have a fundamental structure (Ursatz) which includes the Urlinie (the melodic descent to the tonic).

4. When analyzing 'Giant Steps' by John Coltrane, the rapid modulation through tonic centers separated by which interval defines the 'Coltrane Changes'?

Answer: C) Major Thirds

Coltrane Changes involve multi-tonic systems where the key centers move in major thirds, dividing the octave into three equal parts.

5. In 12-tone serialism, the technique of playing the prime row in reverse order is referred to as _____.

Answer: B) Retrograde

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Retrograde is the term for presenting the tone row backwards, starting with the last note and ending with the first.

6. Which of the following describes a Neapolitan Sixth (N6) chord in the key of G minor?

Answer: A) An Ab major triad in first inversion

The Neapolitan sixth is a major triad built on the lowered second scale degree (ii), typically found in first inversion (represented as bII6).

7. Modal interchange occurs when a composer borrows a chord from a parallel key, such as using a minor iv chord within a major key progression.

Answer: A) True

Modal interchange, or mixture, involves using chords from the parallel mode (e.g., borrowing from C minor while playing in C major) to add harmonic color.

8. A chord consisting of the root, major third, augmented fifth, and minor seventh (1, 3, #5, b7) is technically known as a(n) _____ seventh chord.

Answer: C) Augmented-Dominant

Also called an augmented seventh chord or +7, the Augmented-Dominant chord features a dominant 7th structure with a raised 5th degree.

9. In post-tonal theory, what is the 'prime form' of a Pitch Class Set containing the notes [C, E, G]?

Answer: A) (0 4 7)

In set theory, C=0, E=4 (four semitones above C), and G=7 (seven semitones above C). The prime form organizes these distances concisely as (0 4 7).

10. Pandiatonicism refers to a 20th-century compositional technique that uses the notes of a diatonic scale without the traditional constraints of functional harmonic progression.

Answer: A) True

Pandiatonicism (associated with Stravinsky or Copland) treats all seven notes of the scale with equal importance, avoiding standard V-I resolutions.