

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Decoding Advanced Harmonic Structures for 12th Grade Musicians

Visualize a score analysis where identifying Neapolitan chords and Dorian modes transforms a simple sequence into a collegiate-level musical argument.

1. Which of the following describes a 'Phrygian half cadence' common in the Baroque period?

Answer: A) A progression from IV6 to V in a minor key

In minor modes, the IV6 to V progression creates a half-step descent in the bass, mimicking the Phrygian scale's relationship between the second and first degrees.

2. In standard four-part choral writing (SATB), it is generally acceptable to double the leading tone of a scale.

Answer: B) False

Doubling the leading tone is avoided because it is a tendency tone that must resolve to the tonic; doubling it would result in parallel octaves upon resolution.

3. A major triad with an added minor seventh is functionally known as a _____ chord.

Answer: C) Dominant Seventh

A dominant seventh chord (Mm7) consists of a major triad plus a minor seventh interval from the root, typically built on the fifth degree of the scale.

4. Which mode is created by playing a major scale starting on the sixth degree (the relative minor)?

Answer: C) Aeolian

The Aeolian mode is identical to the natural minor scale and is the sixth mode of the major (Ionian) scale.

5. The distance between a C natural and the G# above it is mathematically defined as a(n) _____.

Answer: B) Augmented Fifth

A Perfect Fifth is C to G. Raising the top note by a half-step without changing the letter name results in an Augmented Fifth.

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6. The Lydian mode features a raised fourth scale degree compared to the Ionian mode.

Answer: A) True

The Lydian mode is characterized by its distinct 'bright' sound caused by the augmented fourth (sharp 4) relative to the major scale.

7. Which term describes a chord where the notes are played sequentially rather than simultaneously?

Answer: A) Arpeggio

An arpeggio (or broken chord) involves playing the individual tones of a chord one after another.

8. In the key of E major, the note that functions as the subdominant is _____.

Answer: B) A

The subdominant is the fourth degree of the scale. In E Major (E-F#-G#-A-B-C#-D#), the fourth note is A.

9. A 'Tritone' is an interval consisting of exactly three whole steps.

Answer: A) True

The name 'tritone' literally means 'three tones' (whole steps), which equals six semitones or an augmented fourth/diminished fifth.

10. What is the primary difference between a Major Seventh chord and a Dominant Seventh chord?

Answer: C) The quality of the seventh

Both chords contain a major triad, but a Major Seventh chord uses a major seventh interval while a Dominant Seventh uses a minor seventh interval.