

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Dissect Harmonic Tension: An 8th Grade Music Theory Quiz

Deconstruct complex modal structures and voice-leading patterns to solve high-level harmonic riddles used by master composers.

1. In the context of the Common Practice Period, which of these avoids a 'Parallel Fifth' error when moving from a G Major chord to an A minor chord?

Answer: B) Utilizing contrary motion between the soprano and bass voices.

To maintain independent voice leading and avoid prohibited parallel perfect intervals, composers use contrary motion, where voices move in opposite directions.

2. A piece of music that moves from the key of E Major to the key of C# minor has moved to its ____, as they share the same key signature of four sharps.

Answer: C) Relative Minor

Relative keys share the same key signature (e.g., E Major and C# minor both have F#, C#, G#, D#).

3. A 'Plagal Cadence' is characterized by a chord progression moving from the Dominant (V) to the Tonic (I).

Answer: B) False

A Plagal Cadence moves from the Subdominant (IV) to the Tonic (I), often called the 'Amen' cadence. V to I is an Authentic Cadence.

4. Which interval is colloquially known as the 'Tritone' due to its span of three whole steps, creating significant harmonic instability?

Answer: B) Augmented Fourth

The Augmented Fourth (or Diminished Fifth) consists of three whole tones and is the most dissonant interval in standard diatonic theory.

5. If you are composing in the Dorian mode starting on the note D, the sixth note of the scale must be ____.

Answer: A) B natural

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The Dorian mode is a minor scale with a raised sixth. In D minor, the sixth is B-flat; therefore, in D Dorian, it is B-natural.

6. An 'Inversion' of a C Major triad where the note E is in the bass is referred to as First Inversion.

Answer: A) True

In a triad, placing the third (E in a C-E-G chord) in the bass creates a First Inversion (6/3 chord).

7. Which of these non-chord tones occurs when a note is held over from a previous chord and then resolves downward to a chord tone?

Answer: C) Suspension

A suspension consists of a preparation, a suspension (holding the note), and a resolution, creating a momentary dissonance.

8. In a standard 12-bar blues progression in the key of G, the fourth measure typically consists of the ___ chord.

Answer: C) G7 (I)

In most 12-bar blues forms, the first four measures stay on the Tonic (I) chord before moving to the Subdominant in bar five.

9. The 'Phrygian' mode is often identified by its characteristic flattened second scale degree.

Answer: A) True

The Phrygian mode is built on the third degree of the major scale and features a minor second interval from the tonic, giving it a distinct sound.

10. When analyzing a score, you see a chord consisting of G, Bb, Db, and F. How would this chord be functionally classified in a jazz context?

Answer: B) Half-diminished 7th chord

A half-diminished chord (G \flat 7) consists of a diminished triad (G-B \flat -D \flat) with a minor seventh (F) above the root.