

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Natural Silence & Epic Sound: 8th Grade Music Theory Quiz

Examine 10 foundational concepts in Western music notation, including sharp-key identification, basic chord quality, and foundational structural patterns.

1. Which specific accidental is used to indicate that a pitch should be raised by one half-step?

Answer: C) Sharp

A sharp symbol (#) raises a note by one semitone (half-step), while a flat lowers it.

2. A 'perfect fifth' is an interval that encompasses seven semitones.

Answer: A) True

The perfect fifth is a stable interval found in both major and minor scales, consisting of exactly seven semitones.

3. In the key of G Major, which note is always sharped in the key signature?

Answer: B) F

The key of G Major follows the pattern of W-W-H-W-W-W-H, resulting in one sharp located on the F line/space.

4. A triad consists of three notes stacked in which specific interval pattern?

Answer: D) Thirds

Standard triads are built using 'tertian' harmony, meaning they are built by stacking intervals of a third (e.g., C-E-G).

5. The distance between two notes with the same name, where the higher note has double the frequency of the lower, is called a(n) _____.

Answer: B) Octave

An octave spans eight scale degrees and represents a 2:1 ratio in frequency, making the notes sound identical but in different registers.

6. The relative minor of C Major is E Minor.

Answer: B) False

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The relative minor of any major key is found a minor third (three semitones) below the tonic. For C Major, this is A Minor.

7. Which of these terms describes a musical structure where a main theme alternates with contrasting sections (A-B-A-C-A)?

Answer: B) Rondo Form

Rondo form is characterized by the repeated return of the 'A' section, separated by different 'episodes'.

8. A ____ scale consists of five notes per octave and is common in many global musical traditions.

Answer: C) Pentatonic

Penta- means five; pentatonic scales are used frequently in rock, blues, and traditional East Asian music.

9. In music notation, the 'key signature' is placed before the time signature on the staff.

Answer: A) True

Standard music engraving always places the clef first, followed by the key signature, and then the time signature.

10. What is the interval between the notes E and F?

Answer: A) Half-step

In the C major scale, there are naturally occurring half-steps between B/C and E/F.