

Study guide for comprehensive theory exams

You will be given four scores to analyze, one each from the following categories. The questions for each will not be about specific details; but rather, will call upon a broad, general grasp of the forms, techniques, and the use of musical language found in each piece. You will not be asked to define specific terms or analyze individual chords; however, be advised that complete answers to the questions will necessarily involve the appropriate application of terms, and that a satisfactory explanation of form and/or use of musical language will inexorably involve some harmonic analysis.

The following lists of genres, forms and styles are not exhaustive checklists. They should provide some orientation for the types of pieces you should be prepared to analyze.

Baroque

Genres: sonata, trio sonata, prelude (or something else) and fugue, concerto, opera, cantata, oratorio

Forms: suite, sonata, variations, da capo aria

Classical

Genres: sonata, chamber music, concerto, symphony, opera

Forms: sonata, binary, ternary, variations, rondo

Romantic

Genres: character pieces, art sonata, symphony, concerto, opera, oratorio

Schumann

Op. 48, No. 14
Dichterliebe, Op. 48, No. 14
Schumann, Robert
Vocal and Piano