

Advanced Music Theory Challenge

Music Theory · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the technical term for the interval distance between two notes that are exactly one octave apart?

- A) Perfect Prime
- B) Perfect Octave**
- C) Major Seventh
- D) Perfect Fifth

2. In a standard Treble Clef, which note name sits on the bottom line of the staff?

- A) G
- B) E**
- C) F
- D) D

3. Which Italian musical term instructs a performer to play a piece of music in a very slow, solemn, and broad tempo?

- A) Allegro
- B) Andante
- C) Largo**
- D) Presto

4. How many beats does a dotted half note receive in a 4/4 time signature?

- A) 3 beats**
- B) 2 beats
- C) 4 beats
- D) 1.5 beats

5. In the key of C Major, which note functions as the leading tone, sitting just a half-step below the tonic?

- A) D
- B) A
- C) B**
- D) F

6. What does the 'forte' dynamic marking instruct a musician to do?

- A) Play very softly
- B) Play gradually louder
- C) Play loudly**
- D) Play short and detached

7. Which of these key signatures has exactly two sharps (F# and C#)?

- A) G Major
- B) D Major**
- C) A Major
- D) E Major

8. What is the term for the symbol that lowers a note by one half-step?

- A) Sharp
- B) Natural
- C) Flat**
- D) Crescendo

9. A 'staccato' mark above a note indicates that the note should be played in what manner?

- A) Long and connected
- B) Short and detached**
- C) Very loudly
- D) With a heavy accent

10. In 4/4 time, which note value represents a single beat?

- A) Whole note
- B) Half note
- C) Quarter note**
- D) Eighth note

11. Which interval consists of exactly three whole steps (e.g., C to F#)?

- A) Perfect Fourth
- B) Tritone**
- C) Minor Third
- D) Major Sixth

12. What does the 'fermata' symbol tell a musician to do?

- A) Repeat the section
- B) Play the note longer than its written value**
- C) Stop playing entirely
- D) Play the note very quietly

13. Which term describes the 'colour' or quality of a sound that distinguishes one instrument from another?

- A) Pitch
- B) Timbre**
- C) Dynamics
- D) Rhythm

14. What is the term for a group of three notes played in the duration of two notes of the same value?

- A) Duplet
- B) Triplet**
- C) Quartet
- D) Syncopation

15. Which clef is primarily used for instruments with a lower pitch, such as the cello or bassoon?

- A) Treble Clef
- B) Alto Clef
- C) Tenor Clef
- D) Bass Clef**

16. What does the 'tempo' of a piece of music specifically measure?

- A) The loudness
- B) The speed of the beat**
- C) The difficulty
- D) The number of sharps

17. Which major scale has no sharps or flats in its key signature?

- A) F Major
- B) C Major**
- C) G Major
- D) A Major

18. What does a 'tie' between two notes of the same pitch indicate?

- A) Play the second note twice as loud
- B) Join the notes to form one continuous sound**
- C) Play the notes as quickly as possible
- D) Play the notes with a pause in between

19. An 'arpeggio' is best defined as:

- A) Playing all notes of a chord simultaneously
- B) Playing the notes of a chord in succession**
- C) A long, sustained note
- D) A sudden change in volume

20. Which Italian term means to play 'gradually getting louder'?

- A) Diminuendo
- B) Crescendo**
- C) Legato
- D) Moderato