

# Music Teachers' Association of California

## Certificate of Merit Strings 2010

### GUIDELINES FOR GRADING THEORY TESTS

1. **Half point deductions are not allowed.**
2. Scoring is indicated on the Answer Key and also on the test. Points for each question are to be divided evenly (for example, writing counts for a four measure rhythm that is worth four points will be graded by giving one point per correct measure).
3. Key names may be written using either capital or lower case letters. For example, accept C Major or c major; C Minor or c minor.
4. Accept any reasonable form of counting: sub-beats ("ands," &,+) are optional. Basic beats must be present (1 2 3 4). Examples of acceptable forms of counting: 1 2 3 4, or 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +, or 1 + 2 3 + 4. Sub-beats must be accurate if included.
5. Accept any reasonable definition.
6. Points should not be deducted if the required knowledge is demonstrated. For example:
  - a. If a key signature is included and the student adds the same sharps or flats that are already included in the key signature.
  - b. If no key signature is given and the student does not put a natural sign on a note raised from flat to natural.
7. When naming Major or minor intervals, key names or other elements and only the letter "m" is used, a clear distinction must be made between capital "M" for Major, and lower case "m" for minor. If unclear, the answer will be marked as incorrect.
8. Many branches have found that, when possible, asking only 1 or 2 teachers to grade the upper level tests makes for more consistent scoring and speeds up the grading process.
9. Other problems should be discussed with and decided by the Branch Chair.

### Calculating the Score

1. **Total Score:** The student's total score is the sum of the number of point values earned on both the theory and the ear training evaluation. The highest possible score is noted on the front of the test booklets as "Total Perfect Score: \_\_\_\_." The passing score and Convention Eligibility scores are noted as "Passing Score: \_\_\_\_" and "Convention Eligibility: \_\_\_\_."
2. **Passing Score:** The passing score is calculated as **70%** of the perfect score. **Convention Eligibility** is **80%** of the perfect score. **Advanced Exemption** is **90%** of the perfect score.

To compute the percentage of any score, use this formula:

Formula: **Points correct** ÷ **Perfect Score** = **Percentage**

Example: **89** (points earned) ÷ **103** (Level IV Perfect Score) = **.86 or 86%**

(Continued →)

The Perfect & Passing Score (70%) for each level are listed below.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Perfect Score</u>	<u>Passing Score</u>	<u>Convention Eligibility</u>
2	51	35	40
3	74	52	59
4	89	62	71
5	94	66	75
6	110	77	88
7	122	85	97
8	128	89	102
9	130	91	104
10/ADV	140	98	112 (90% Exemption = 126)

### **Recording Student Scores**

1. The Number Incorrect and Final Score (**total points possible minus the number missed**) for each student should be recorded in the space provided in the boxed section on the front of the student test booklet.
2. Circle "Yes" or "No" in the box provided for Passing and Convention Eligibility. On Advanced Level tests, circle "Yes" or "No" for Exemption.
3. Some branches request that the graders initial (or write their CM teacher number) on the front cover of any tests they grade. Ask your Branch Chair if he or she would like to follow this procedure.