

What you need to know about the Online Theory Study Guides

- The concepts presented in the online study guides and tested in the unit tests and final exam are based on the requirements outlined in the Theory Syllabus, 2016 Edition.
- Theory concepts are organized in units reflecting the Theory Syllabus and Celebrate Theory books and include similar explanations.
- The way in which the concepts are tested is different. Generally speaking, in the written examinations, the focus is on demonstrating understanding of theory concepts by either writing or identifying. Writing out key signatures, scales, chords and other elements requires accurate and legible penmanship, and therefore preparations involve attention to detail in the written responses. Online examinations test students' understanding of the concepts in other ways, including identification of elements, selecting the correct answer, or identifying the best solution.
- Students who have prepared for a written exam and are switching over to online should focus on becoming familiar with the new question types, by working through the practice tests and unit tests in the online study guide.

Examples of differences between testing strategies in the written and online exams include:

TOPIC	WRITTEN EXAMINATION	ONLINE EXAMINATION
Pitch and Notation	- Drawing or naming individual notes	- Naming notes, choosing the correct answer from a drop-down menu
Rhythm and Meter	- Adding missing rests	- Identifying the correct way to complete a measure with rests (choosing from two possible solutions)
Scales and Key Signatures	- Writing scales	- Identifying scales
Intervals	- Naming or writing intervals	- Naming intervals, choosing from a drop-down menu of possible answers
Melody Writing	- Writing a parallel period, using musical notation on the staff	- Dragging and dropping appropriate melodic components onto the staff to create a parallel period.

- Unit tests in the online study guide provide the opportunity for students to become familiar with the question types that will be featured on the final exam. Much like completing “practice exams” in advance of written theory examinations, the unit tests help students assess their knowledge, expose any areas of weakness, and build confidence in advance of the final exam.
- Unit tests contribute to 40% of the final mark, providing students with credit for their preparation time.
- For additional practice, students may purchase the theory apps that provide additional questions. Concepts can also be reviewed within each unit prior to attempting the practice tests or unit tests.