

Listening Exam 2 Practice (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. Who is the composer of the piece performed by the Cleveland Orchestra?**
 - A. Johann Sebastian Bach**
 - B. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
 - C. Ludwig van Beethoven**
 - D. Franz Schubert**
- 2. What types of listening passages can you expect on the exam?**
 - A. Only lectures and discussions**
 - B. Conversations, interviews, lectures, and discussions**
 - C. News reports and podcasts**
 - D. Songs and radio advertisements**
- 3. What statement best describes the main theme at the beginning of Symphony No. 5?**
 - A. The theme is stated by the flute, and the texture is polyphonic.**
 - B. The theme is stated by the brass, and the texture is homophonic.**
 - C. The theme is stated by the strings, and the texture is contrapuntal.**
 - D. The theme is stated by the woodwinds, and the texture is monophonic.**
- 4. What is the tempo marking for the Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major?**
 - A. Allegro**
 - B. Allegretto**
 - C. Pianissimo**
 - D. Presto**
- 5. Why is it important to recognize the main ideas in a listening passage?**
 - A. They are often repeated throughout the passage**
 - B. They help listeners form opinions**
 - C. They serve as the framework for understanding the supporting details**
 - D. They are less significant than minor details**

- 6. What is the title of the piece conducted by George Szell?**
- A. String Quartet in C Minor**
 - B. Eine kleine Nachtmusik, III**
 - C. Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major**
 - D. Symphony No. 40 in G Minor**
- 7. What is the title of the third movement of the piece performed by the Cleveland Orchestra?**
- A. Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, III**
 - B. Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, IV**
 - C. Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major, I**
 - D. Symphony No. 41 in C Major, II**
- 8. What role does personal interest play in enhancing listening capabilities?**
- A. It decreases cognitive load**
 - B. It boosts motivation and attention**
 - C. It simplifies complex information**
 - D. It allows for passive learning**
- 9. What should you focus on if a question asks about the speaker's opinion?**
- A. Language that indicates preference or judgment**
 - B. Facts and statistics presented**
 - C. Examples provided during the talk**
 - D. Transitions between different topics**
- 10. What is the title of the piece composed by Ludwig van Beethoven?**
- A. Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67, IV**
 - B. Piano Sonata No. 14 in C Sharp Minor**
 - C. Pathétique Sonata**
 - D. Symphony No. 9 in D Minor**

Answers

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- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. B**
- 4. A**
- 5. C**
- 6. B**
- 7. A**
- 8. B**
- 9. A**
- 10. A**

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Explanations

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1. Who is the composer of the piece performed by the Cleveland Orchestra?

A. Johann Sebastian Bach

B. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

C. Ludwig van Beethoven

D. Franz Schubert

The composer of the piece performed by the Cleveland Orchestra is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Known for his prolific and influential compositions, Mozart was a crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras of Western music. His works are characterized by their melodic beauty, formal structure, and emotional depth. The Cleveland Orchestra frequently performs Mozart's music due to its popularity and the technical demands it presents, which showcase the orchestra's skill and artistry. Each of the other composers listed is also significant, but the piece in question aligns specifically with Mozart's style, instrumentation, and overall contribution to the repertoire that orchestras like the Cleveland Orchestra choose to highlight in their concerts.

2. What types of listening passages can you expect on the exam?

A. Only lectures and discussions

B. Conversations, interviews, lectures, and discussions

C. News reports and podcasts

D. Songs and radio advertisements

The correct answer encompasses a wide range of listening passages that reflect various real-world scenarios and formats you are likely to encounter in academic and everyday contexts. By including conversations, interviews, lectures, and discussions, this choice provides a comprehensive overview of the types of listening tasks designed to assess different aspects of listening comprehension. Conversations allow you to practice understanding the flow of dialogue between speakers, picking up on nuances such as tone and intent. Interviews provide a more structured example of dialogue where one party seeks information, enhancing skills in following a narrative or logical progression. Lectures serve as an avenue to engage with informational content in a more formal setting, focusing on the main ideas, supporting details, and overall structure. Discussions often reflect collaborative ideas and viewpoints, helping learners familiarize themselves with listening to multiple perspectives within a group dynamic. Other answer choices represent narrower themes or specific formats that do not cover the extensive range of listening experiences typically presented in comprehensive assessments. Listening to songs or radio advertisements, for instance, may enhance your ability to understand informal language and catchy phrases but would not provide the same level of academic or structured communication practice as the selections mentioned in the correct answer. This makes the second choice the most appropriate one for the kinds of passages you are likely to encounter on the

3. What statement best describes the main theme at the beginning of Symphony No. 5?

A. The theme is stated by the flute, and the texture is polyphonic.

B. The theme is stated by the brass, and the texture is homophonic.

C. The theme is stated by the strings, and the texture is contrapuntal.

D. The theme is stated by the woodwinds, and the texture is monophonic.

The main theme at the beginning of Symphony No. 5 is characterized by its powerful and memorable motif, typically introduced by the brass section. This theme is not only bold but also provides a strong foundation for the entire symphony. The texture can be described as homophonic because, while the brass carries the main melody, other instruments support it with harmonies that complement the thematic material. This clear distinction between melody in the brass and harmonic support from other sections exemplifies a homophonic texture, making option B the best description. The orchestration and textural characteristics of the other options do not align with the true nature of the symphony's opening. The use of woodwinds or strings for the main theme does not accurately capture the essence of the opening motif, and the mention of polyphonic or contrapuntal textures fails to reflect the clarity and directness of the thematic expression found in this iconic work.

4. What is the tempo marking for the Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major?

A. Allegro

B. Allegretto

C. Pianissimo

D. Presto

The tempo marking for the Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major is classified as Allegro, which indicates a fast, lively tempo. This style is characteristic of many concertos, particularly those featuring wind instruments, where a vibrant and energetic pace highlights the virtuosity of the performer. Allegro typically suggests a speed of around 120 to 168 beats per minute, allowing for an exciting and engaging performance that can showcase both the technical capabilities of the trumpet and the orchestral accompaniment. This choice aligns well with the overall structure and intention of concertos, which often aim to captivate the audience with lively and dynamic musical passages.

5. Why is it important to recognize the main ideas in a listening passage?

- A. They are often repeated throughout the passage**
- B. They help listeners form opinions**
- C. They serve as the framework for understanding the supporting details**
- D. They are less significant than minor details**

Recognizing the main ideas in a listening passage is crucial because they serve as the framework for understanding the supporting details. Main ideas encapsulate the core messages or concepts the speaker is trying to convey. By identifying these key points, listeners can better organize and retain the information presented. Supporting details usually elaborate on or provide examples of the main ideas, allowing listeners to grasp the context and significance of what is being communicated. Understanding this hierarchy of information is essential for effective listening comprehension and critical analysis.

6. What is the title of the piece conducted by George Szell?

- A. String Quartet in C Minor**
- B. Eine kleine Nachtmusik, III**
- C. Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major**
- D. Symphony No. 40 in G Minor**

The piece conducted by George Szell is "Eine kleine Nachtmusik, III." This choice is an iconic work by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, specifically the third movement of his "Eine kleine Nachtmusik," which is known for its lively and upbeat character. Szell's interpretation is significant as he was a renowned conductor known for his precise articulation and elegant phrasing, both of which enhance the charm and vivacity of this particular piece. The other options represent well-known compositions but do not align with Szell's conducting repertoire in this context. The "String Quartet in C Minor" is a chamber music piece by a different composer, while the "Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major" and "Symphony No. 40 in G Minor" are notable works, but they do not directly connect to Szell's conducting achievements in the same way as "Eine kleine Nachtmusik." Szell's legacy is often highlighted through his mastery in interpreting orchestral works, and this specific choice reflects that association vividly.

7. What is the title of the third movement of the piece performed by the Cleveland Orchestra?

- A. Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, III**
- B. Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, IV**
- C. Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major, I**
- D. Symphony No. 41 in C Major, II**

The title of the third movement of the piece performed by the Cleveland Orchestra is indeed "Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, III." This symphony, composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, features four movements, and the designation "III" indicates that it is specifically referring to the third movement. In classical symphonic structure, each movement is often labeled with a Roman numeral, where the first movement is I, the second is II, and so forth. The third movement of Symphony No. 40 is notable for its distinct character and energetic dynamics, which demonstrate Mozart's mastery of orchestration and form. Understanding the specific placement within the symphonies helps listeners appreciate the thematic development and emotional contrasts present in the entire work. The confusion might arise from other choices referencing Symphony No. 40 and other symphonies. However, since the question specifically asks for the title of the third movement, identifying the correct symphony and its corresponding movement number is essential.

8. What role does personal interest play in enhancing listening capabilities?

- A. It decreases cognitive load**
- B. It boosts motivation and attention**
- C. It simplifies complex information**
- D. It allows for passive learning**

Personal interest significantly boosts motivation and attention, which are crucial for effective listening. When individuals are genuinely interested in a topic, they are more likely to engage with the material actively. This engagement enhances their focus and allows them to absorb information more deeply. Furthermore, interest fuels curiosity, prompting listeners to seek clarification and delve deeper into the content, leading to a richer understanding. This heightened motivation not only improves their ability to retain information but also encourages them to participate in discussions, ask questions, and connect ideas, all of which further enhance their listening skills. While other options may touch on various aspects of listening, they do not capture the pivotal role that personal interest plays in fostering a more attentive and motivated approach to listening.

9. What should you focus on if a question asks about the speaker's opinion?

A. Language that indicates preference or judgment

B. Facts and statistics presented

C. Examples provided during the talk

D. Transitions between different topics

When a question asks about the speaker's opinion, it is essential to focus on language that indicates preference or judgment. This type of language often includes phrases or words that express how the speaker feels about a specific topic, such as "I believe," "I think," "in my view," or terms that clearly show approval or disapproval. Understanding the nuances of this language allows listeners to grasp the speaker's personal stance and insight, which is crucial for interpreting their intended message. The other options might provide useful context or information, but they do not directly reflect the speaker's personal opinion or viewpoint. Words related to facts and statistics, examples, or transitions between topics are more about supporting information rather than expressing a personal perspective. Thus, focusing on language that conveys preference or judgment will lead to a comprehensive understanding of the speaker's opinion.

10. What is the title of the piece composed by Ludwig van Beethoven?

A. Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67, IV

B. Piano Sonata No. 14 in C Sharp Minor

C. Pathétique Sonata

D. Symphony No. 9 in D Minor

The title "Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67, IV" refers to the fourth movement of one of Beethoven's most famous symphonies. This symphony is often recognized for its iconic four-note opening motif, which is a defining feature of classical music. The piece is significant as it represents Beethoven's innovative approach to symphonic writing and his ability to convey profound emotional depth through music. In this context, the symphony consists of multiple movements, with the fourth movement being particularly notable for its triumphant and energetic character. This movement showcases Beethoven's transition from the somber and tumultuous first movements to an uplifting finale, symbolizing victory and resilience. The title is specific because it not only identifies the work but also categorizes it within classical music repertoire, indicating its complexity and significance. Other options listed, while they represent valid compositions by Beethoven, do not reflect the same level of recognition or the specific format of a symphony movement that is exemplified in the correct answer. Each piece showcases different aspects of Beethoven's compositional style, but the selected title stands out as one of his most celebrated works.