

NYSTCE MUSIC (165) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which term describes bowing with two adjacent strings like a tremolo?**
 - A. Affrettando
 - B. Allargando
 - C. Calando
 - D. Ondulé
- 2. Which term is defined as 'Hold the note for its full value' according to the material?**
 - A. Forzando (fz)
 - B. rinforzando
 - C. Tenuto
 - D. Sforzando
- 3. Which term is a short piece of sacred choral music, typically polyphonic and unaccompanied?**
 - A. Baroque Music
 - B. Cadenza
 - C. Organum
 - D. Motet
- 4. Which form is associated with the third movement of a classical symphony?**
 - A. Minuet and Trio
 - B. Rondo form
 - C. Theme and Variations
 - D. Cadenza
- 5. Which style emphasizes atmosphere and color over detailed representation?**
 - A. Neoclassical Music
 - B. Impressionist Music
 - C. Latin Jazz
 - D. Minimalism

6. Which term is defined as a nonharmonic tone that is approached by step and left by step in the same direction?
- A. Passing Tone
 - B. Suspension
 - C. Anticipation Tone
 - D. Neighbor Tone
7. Which nonharmonic tone is defined as a tone that leaves early from the preparation chord by step to become part of the resolution chord?
- A. Anticipation Tone
 - B. Appoggiatura
 - C. Suspension
 - D. Passing Tone
8. Which mode is major scale with lowered seventh?
- A. Ionian
 - B. Lydian
 - C. Aeolian
 - D. Mixolydian
9. Which tempo marking is described as moderately, easy but comfortable pace?
- A. Andante
 - B. Staccato
 - C. Moderato
 - D. Allegro
10. Which term describes a bowing technique in which the bow plays two adjacent strings like a tremolo?
- A. Détaché
 - B. Motet
 - C. Ondulé
 - D. Baroque Music

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term describes bowing with two adjacent strings like a tremolo?

- A. Affrettando
- B. Allargando
- C. Calando
- D. Ondulé**

Ondulé denotes a wavy, undulating bow stroke used on two adjacent strings to produce a tremolo-like effect between the notes. This technique involves alternating the bow between the two strings rapidly, creating a continuous, shimmering double-stop. The other terms describe tempo or expressive changes (quickening, broadening, or fading), not the specific bowing pattern between two strings.

2. Which term is defined as 'Hold the note for its full value' according to the material?

- A. Forzando (fz)
- B. rinforzando
- C. Tenuto
- D. Sforzando**

Tenuto is the marking that tells you to hold the note for its full written value. It's usually shown as a short dash above or below the note and guides you to sustain the note for the exact duration intended, sometimes with a touch of weight but not extra length beyond the written rhythm. The other marks are about articulation and emphasis: Sforzando and Forzando indicate sudden strong accents, while rinforzando means a reinforced accent. So the idea of holding the note for its full value aligns with Tenuto.

3. Which term is a short piece of sacred choral music, typically polyphonic and unaccompanied?

- A. Baroque Music
- B. Cadenza
- C. Organum
- D. Motet**

A motet is a short sacred choral work that is polyphonic and typically performed a cappella. It originated in medieval Europe as a vocal setting of sacred texts for multiple independent voice parts, weaving them together without instrumental accompaniment. This contrasts with organum, an earlier medieval polyphony built by adding voices to a plainchant chant; a cadenza is a virtuosic solo flourish usually found in instrumental concertos; and Baroque music refers to a period, not a specific form. So the term described is motet.

4. Which form is associated with the third movement of a classical symphony?

- A. Minuet and Trio
- B. Rondo form**
- C. Theme and Variations
- D. Cadenza

Rondo form is defined by a principal theme that keeps returning between contrasting episodes, creating a sense of return and forward momentum. In a classical symphony, the third movement is typically a lively, dance-like number in triple meter (the Minuet and Trio, later often a Scherzo). However, some composers chose a rondo for the third movement, placing the familiar refrain after various episodes to maintain energy and unity before moving into the finale. So recognizing a recurring A section interspersed with contrasting sections explains why rondo form can be associated with the third movement in certain works, even though the Minuet/Scherzo view is more common overall.

5. Which style emphasizes atmosphere and color over detailed representation?

- A. Neoclassical Music
- B. Impressionist Music**
- C. Latin Jazz
- D. Minimalism

Impressionist music centers on atmosphere and color, using delicate timbre, orchestration, and innovative scales to evoke mood and imagery rather than depict something in strict, detailed detail. Composers like Debussy and at times Ravel craft shimmering textures and fluid harmonic movements—often employing whole-tone or pentatonic scales and subtle pedal effects—to create a sense of place or atmosphere, such as a shimmering landscape or dreamy scene. The aim is to produce a sensory impression, not a precise, literal representation. Other approaches emphasize different priorities: neoclassical music tends to foreground clear form, balance, and restraint; minimalism focuses on repetition and gradual process; Latin Jazz blends rhythmic vitality and fusion elements. In this context, the style that emphasizes atmosphere and color over detailed representation is impressionist music.

6. Which term is defined as a nonharmonic tone that is approached by step and left by step in the same direction?

- A. Passing Tone**
- B. Suspension
- C. Anticipation Tone
- D. Neighbor Tone

A passing tone is a nonharmonic note that decorates a melodic line by moving between two chord tones with stepwise motion in the same direction. It doesn't belong to the harmony on the beat, but it lets the voice glide smoothly from one harmony to the next. For example, in a melody moving from C to E over a C major harmony, inserting D as the middle note—C, D, E—uses steps in the same direction, and D is the passing tone. A neighbor tone, by contrast, is approached and left by step but in opposite directions (it's a small step away from a chord tone and then back). An anticipation tone sounds the next harmony's pitch early, before the chord changes. A suspension holds a note from the previous harmony into the new one and resolves to a chord tone by step, rather than simply linking two chord tones with a stepwise, same-direction move.

7. Which nonharmonic tone is defined as a tone that leaves early from the preparation chord by step to become part of the resolution chord?

A. Anticipation Tone

B. Appoggiatura

C. Suspension

D. Passing Tone

Nonharmonic tones are notes that momentarily step outside the current harmony to add color, then return to the expected chord. This item describes a tone that starts in the preparation chord but moves by step to join the notes of the resolution chord earlier than the change in harmony. That sense of "arriving early on the next chord" is what identifies it as an anticipation. An anticipation occurs when a pitch belongs to the upcoming harmony and is heard before the actual change, so it sounds like part of the resolution chord even though the surrounding harmony hasn't changed yet. It's often approached by step from a note in the previous chord and then becomes part of the new chord once the harmony changes. By contrast, a passing tone connects two chord tones by step within the same harmony; a suspension uses a tone carried over from the previous chord and resolves downward by step; and an appoggiatura is typically approached by a leap and resolved by step, often accented. The defining feature here is that the tone belongs to the upcoming, resolution chord and enters early, which is why it's described as an anticipation.

8. Which mode is major scale with lowered seventh?

A. Ionian

B. Lydian

C. Aeolian

D. Mixolydian

In modal thinking, the difference between modes comes from how one pitches are altered compared to the major scale. The defining change here is lowering the seventh degree of a major-scale set of notes. When you take the major scale and flatten its seventh, you land on the Mixolydian mode. For example, starting on C, the major scale would be C D E F G A B. Lower that seventh to B and you get C D E F G A B $\flat$, which is Mixolydian. This contrasts with Ionian (the unaltered major scale with a natural seventh), Lydian (raised fourth), and Aeolian (the natural minor with a flat third, sixth, and seventh relative to major). So the mode defined by a major scale with a lowered seventh is Mixolydian.

9. Which tempo marking is described as moderately, easy but comfortable pace?

A. Andante

B. Staccato

C. Moderato

D. Allegro

Tempo markings tell you how fast to play, and Andante designates a walking pace—a steady, relaxed tempo that feels easy and comfortable to execute. It sits between slower, more leisurely speeds and swifter ones, guiding you to a natural, unobtrusive flow. Staccato is about how notes are connected or separated, not speed, so it doesn't describe tempo. Allegro is a brisk, lively tempo, faster than what's meant by a comfortable, easy pace. Moderato is a moderate speed that can feel a bit more energized than a true walking pace. So, Andante best matches the description of a moderately, easy but comfortable pace.

10. Which term describes a bowing technique in which the bow plays two adjacent strings like a tremolo?

A. Détaché

B. Motet

C. Ondulé

D. Baroque Music

The idea being tested is a tremolo-like bowing across two adjacent strings. When the bow is moved rapidly back and forth between two neighboring strings, the sound remains continuous and undulating instead of distinct notes. That effect is described by the term ondulé, which captures this wave-like, tremolo bowing. Détaché would produce crisp, separate notes with clear separations; motet refers to a vocal composition, not a bowing technique; and Baroque Music denotes a historical period, not how the bow should be used. So ondulé best describes the two-string tremolo bowing.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://nystcemusic165.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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