



Wilton High School

AP Music Theory

Core texts:

- **Tonal Harmony, 7th edition - Kostka / Payne**
- **College Board published resources, sample questions, previous years' free-response-questions**
- **[Internet Music Theory Database](#) - Scores and recordings for analysis**
- **Public domain and music-library scores**
- **Online recordings & streaming music**

Units/Topics	Students will know:	Students will be able to:
Scales, Keys, and Tonality	Pitch notation in the grand staff Duration and rest symbols up to sixteenth notes Simple and compound meters Major scales and minor variants Key signatures Principles of melodic composition	Read, interpret, and notate pitch and rhythm notation Understand major and minor tonalities; construct scales and diatonic intervals, construct and identify key signatures, identify the tonality of aural and printed melodies Compose short melodies using established parameters Dictate short melodies of varying complexities based on aural stimulus Sight sing short melodies of limited to moderate complexity

Triads and Inversions (and 7th Chords)	Diatonic triads in major and minor keys Common chromatic variants in minor keys The dominant seventh chord in major and minor keys Inversions of triads and dominant seventh chords	Identify, construct, and apply diatonic triads (and inversions) in major and minor keys Identify, construct, and apply seventh chords (and inversions) Identify melodic structures related to triads and seventh chords; interpret and sight-sing such melodies Analyze triads and seventh chords in authentic repertoire
Diatonic chord progressions	How chords function in common progressions The aesthetic/emotional effect of various chord progressions How to recognize common chord progressions	Create functional harmony Harmonize or re-harmonize existing melodies Realize a figured bass progression Dictate chord progressions of varying complexities based on aural stimulus Discern melodic and harmonic function based on analysis of written music and aural stimulus
Voice Leading / Counterpoint	Principles of common practice species counterpoint, as per the College Board AP Music Theory scoring guidelines How to part-write Roman numerals and figured bass progressions Non-chord tones, and how to incorporate them within counterpoint	Apply principles of species counterpoint and traditional voice leading to part writing exercises Realize chord progressions in common practice four-part style Realize figured bass progressions in common practice four party style Identify, construct, and apply non-chord tones Synthesize information from piano reductions, chamber scores, or full scores requiring transpositions
Cadences and Phrase Structure	Harmonic cadences in common practice music (perfect/imperfect authentic, half, deceptive, plagal, Phrygian half)	Analyze and understand common cadences and simple phrase structures Use knowledge of cadences to

	Common phrase structures (sentence, period) Common form structures (binary, ternary, through-composed, etc)	determine small phrase structures Analyze longer works for larger elements of form and structure
Applied Chords	How to identify and construct applied chords in major and minor keys (secondary dominant, secondary leading-tone, etc) How to recognize and interpret applied chords in authentic repertoire	Identify, construct, and apply common applied chords and secondary function chords Identify, analyze, and sight-sing melodies that contain or imply secondary functions Part write from Roman numeral or figured bass progressions containing secondary functions Dictate short chord progressions including secondary functions
Enrichment / Expansion Units	Time permitting, course may include topics such as, but not limited to: - 12-tone technique or serialism - Contemporary classical / Postmodern music - Film scores - Jazz harmony - Popular styles - Arranging and transcribing	Use knowledge of common practice music theory to understand extended techniques or contemporary styles of music
Student Self-Selected Project	How to synthesize course concepts to produce a self-designed, creative project The process for refining creative work	Compose, arrange, and synthesize musical content in a manner that suits personal interests Refine creative work Determine when creative work is ready for presentation