

Sample Qualification Questions

Handwritten musical notation on a staff, including a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The notes are partially obscured by a thick black redaction bar.

Schubert "Der Winter"

Musical notation for Schubert's "Der Winter". The staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a single line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "auf der Erde ist es kalt — es hat mich sein Wesen besetzt".

Handwritten musical notation on a staff, including a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The notes are partially obscured by a thick black redaction bar.

You will be asked to give brief definition of terms, and to supply the name of composers whose output would likely furnish examples of that term. Forms, techniques, chords, etc. will be included. They will be divided into three eras:

before the 19th c.

(Terms such as:) Sonata rondo, Point of imitation, Ritornello, Transition (of a sonata form), chorale fantasy, fugue, binary, compound ternary, etc., etc.

19th c.

(Terms such as:) Thematic transformation, Chromatic third relation, Cross relation, etc., etc.

20th c.

(Terms such as:) Metric modulation, Timbral modulation, Sound mass, Combinatoriality, Extended tertian harmony, Octatonic, Sets, Rows, etc., etc.

Additionally, you will be required to demonstrate an understanding of other compositional techniques (modulation, development, serial transformations, etc.) specific to those eras.