

## MTH 231 ADVANCED MUSICIANSHIP I ASSESSMENT GUIDE<sup>1</sup>

I am a strong believer in the value of qualitative assessment over quantitative. That is, I'd rather give you quality feedback on how to improve your understanding and the work it demonstrates than just assign you a number. Feedback is more meaningful and will, I hope, better equip you to understand where any problems are arising and how to fix them. For this reason I would like to deemphasize the numerical part of assessing your work and focus more on the *why* and *how*.

How will we do this?

- A. I will set up a Google doc for each student that only you and I can view, accessible through Google Drive.
- B. After each assignment, I will write some remarks there regarding your work, issues that arose, and how to get better at it.
- C. You will be able to respond to what I say using Google Drive's "Comment" function by selecting the relevant text and right clicking to bring up a drop-down menu that allows you to comment (or press the appropriate key command). This is useful if I say something that doesn't make sense to you or you just have a more general question.
- D. Each qualitative assessment will be followed by a number ranging 0–4 that will form the basis of the numerical grade that will be calculated. Here, briefly, is what these numbers mean:
  - 4: Mastery (perfect, or nearly so)
  - 3: Working Knowledge
  - 2: Insufficient Understanding
  - 1: Poor Understanding
  - 0: No Significant Attempt Made
- E. Passing grades are 4s and 3s, while 2s, 1s, and 0s, are not. The Assignment portion of your grade is the average.
- F. This system will have several benefits:
  1. Numbers correlate closely to a general assessment that has more meaning
  2. You have the opportunity to dialogue with me at greater length about the quality of your work.
  3. If you feel your final grade is unjustified, you have a record of my assessments that help us discuss it. Final say, of course, still rests with me, but you can build a case for a better grade if you feel strongly that you deserve it and can support it with evidence.
  4. It will, I hope, focus your attention more on the extent of your understanding than on the grade.

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