

Sample Graduate Jazz History Diagnostic Test

1. Listening

Each student will listen to two songs from the jazz repertory. Students should identify musical traits that characterize the performance and that lends itself towards a particular style of jazz history. For example, it is not sufficient to write the song is bebop, but to explain and describe what is happening in the different instruments that point to a bebop-style of performance. Songs will be played twice.

2. Essay

Students will write a 1-2 page essay on each of two of the following four topics:

- In early jazz, what are the differences between jazz from New Orleans and New York?
- Discuss five key big band leaders who originated during the Swing Era
- Compare and contrast Hard Bop and Cool Jazz
- A history of fusion from the 1970s through the 1980s