

AP Music Theory  
Pre-planning

1. Solfege
  - a. You have to understand solfege, if you don't, ask a choir kid.
2. Key signatures (you must be able to do these and quickly)
  - a. Major key signatures with Sharps
    - i. Order of Sharps is FCGDAEB (Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bread)
      1. The last sharp is "ti"
      2. The letter after "ti" is "do", and "do" is the key
        - a. If there are four sharps, they are FCG and D. The letter after D is E, E major is the key.
    - ii. Order of Flats is BEADGCF (exactly the opposite of order of sharps)
      1. The last flat is "fa", second to last is "do"
      2. If there are four flats, they are BEA and D. The second to last is A, the key is A flat major.
    - iii. Minor keys with sharps
      1. Minor keys start on "la" instead of Do.
      2. If you have four sharps, they are FCG and D, D is ti, the letter before D is C (which is sharp), so the key is C sharp minor
    - iv. Minor keys with flats
      1. If you have four flats, they are BEA and D, the last flat is fa, so D flat is Fa, meaning E flat is sol, and F is la. F minor has four flats.
3. Ear training (use [www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com))
  - a. Interval practice sets, start with melodic ascending, add harmonic and melodic descending.
    - i. P4, P5, P8
    - ii. Ma3, Mi3 (then add Ma6, Mi6)
    - iii. Mi2, Ma2 (then add Mi7, Ma7)
    - iv. Start to combine any two of the sets above, then all three
    - v. check the box for "compound intervals"
      1. A compound interval is the given interval + 1 octave
      2. Don't try mixing sets until you master them separately.
    - vi. Melodic ascending will be easiest, harmonic is more challenging--teoria allows you to mix
  - b. Modes
    - i. A mode is a major scale starting from different scale degrees
      1. Dorian mode is from re-re, or from D to D using all the natural notes, like using a C major scale from the second scale degree until you reach the octave.
        - a. This means it is essentially a minor scale with a raised 6th (D minor has one flat, B flat, which is the sixth scale degree)
      2. Phrygian mode is from mi-mi, or E to E of a C major scale
        - a. This is a minor scale with a lowered 2nd scale degree
      3. Lydian mode is from fa-fa, or F to F of a C major scale
        - a. This is a major scale with a raised 4th scale degree
      4. Mixolydian mode is from sol-sol, or G-G of a C major scale
        - a. This is a major scale with a lowered 7th scale degree
      5. Aeolian mode is from la-la, or A-A of a C major scale
        - a. This is a natural minor scale
      6. Locrian mode is the least used, it is B-B of a C major scale
        - a. This is a minor scale with a lowered 2nd and 5th scale degree
        - b. It is rarely used because the root to fifth is a tri-tone not a perfect fifth.