

No Bull Theory Book Self-Test Questions

Volume 1, Chapter 1

1. How many notes are in the full musical alphabet (chromatic scale)?
2. What is the name for the complete set of 12 notes used in Western music?
3. What are the notes A through G called?
4. What symbol is used to indicate a sharp?
5. What symbol is used to indicate a flat?
6. Between which two pairs of natural notes is there no sharp or flat? What mnemonic helps you remember this?
7. What is the name of the note between G and A?
8. What is the name of the note between D and E?
9. Starting on C, what are the 12 notes of the chromatic scale?

Volume 1, Chapter 2

1. How many frets apart are two notes that are a semitone apart?
2. How many frets apart are two notes that are a tone apart?
3. What is another name for a semitone?
4. What is another name for a tone?

Volume 1, Chapter 3

1. How many notes are there in a major scale?
2. What is the pattern of tones (whole steps) and semitones (half steps) that builds a major scale?
3. What is the starting note of a scale commonly called?
4. Can the tone/semitone pattern of a major scale be changed without affecting the type of scale? Why or why not?
5. How many major scales are there in total?
6. Which major scale contains no sharps or flats?
7. What happens when you complete a major scale—what note do you land on?

Volume 1, Chapter 4

1. How many notes are in a triad?
2. What is the formula for building a major triad?
3. What is the formula for building a minor triad?
4. What is the difference between a major triad and a minor triad?
5. What are the notes in the D major scale? What are the notes in a D major triad? What are the notes in a D minor triad?

6. What are the notes in the B \flat major scale? What are the notes in a B \flat major triad?
What are the notes in a B \flat minor triad?
7. Why aren't power chords considered triads?
8. Are power major or minor?

Volume 1, Chapter 5

1. What is an interval?
2. Given that the notes of the D major scale are d e f \sharp g a b c \sharp , What is the 4th of D? What is the 7th of D? What is the 3rd of D? What is the 6th of D? What is the 2nd of D? What is the 5th of D?
3. Given that the notes in the A major scale are a b c \sharp d e f \sharp g \sharp , What is the interval from A to D? What is the interval from A to G \sharp ? What is the interval from A to B? What is the interval from A to E? What is the interval from A to C \sharp ? What is the interval from A to F \sharp ? What is the interval from A to A?

Volume 1, Chapter 6

1. What is a chromatic interval?
2. What are the notes in the D major scale? What is the \flat 3rd of D? What is the \flat 7th of D? What is the \sharp 5th of D? What is the \flat 6th of D? What is the \sharp 2nd of D? What is the \flat 5th of D? What is the \flat 2nd of D? What is the \sharp 4th of D?
3. What are the notes in the A major scale? What is the interval from A to B \flat ? What is the interval from A to G? What is the interval from A to C? What is the interval from A to E \flat ? What is the interval from A to D \sharp ? What is the interval from A to F? What is the interval from A to E \sharp ?

Volume 1, Chapter 7

1. What does the key of a song tell you?
2. If a song is in the key of A major, where do most of its notes come from?
3. How many major keys are there?
4. How many chords are in a typical major key's chord family?
5. What is the scale called that these chords are built from?

Volume 1, Chapter 8

1. In any key, what is the 'quality' (i.e. major, minor, or diminished) of each roman numeral chord?
2. What are the chords in the key of D major?

3. True or False:
 - a. In any major key triad chords I, IV and V are major.
 - b. In any major key the II, IV and VI triad chords are minor.
 - c. Chord VII is a diminished triad.
 - d. The formula major, minor, minor, major, major, minor, diminished only works for figuring out the chords in the key of C.
4. What is the special name for the VI chord in a major key?
5. How many frets away is the root of the relative minor and in which direction?

Volume 1, Chapter 9

1. What are the I–IV–V progression in the keys of:
 - a. G
 - b. F
 - c. A
2. What are the I–VI–II–V progression in the keys of:
 - a. D
 - b. E
 - c. D \flat
3. Add Roman numerals to these chord progressions:
 - a. key of G: | G | C | Bm | Am D |
 - b. key of C: | C | Am | Dm | G |
 - c. key of B: | G \sharp m | F \sharp | E | B |

Volume 1, Chapter 10

1.
 - a. How many notes are in a pentatonic scale?
 - b. What are the two most common types of pentatonic scales?
 - c. Which two notes are removed from the major scale to create a major pentatonic scale?
 - d. What kind of triad is the major pentatonic built on, and in what type of keys is it commonly used?
2. Given that the F major scale is F, G, A, B \flat , C, D, E — what are the notes in the **F major pentatonic**?
3.
 - a. The major pentatonic scale is often used in place of which scale when soloing?
 - b. What is the interval formula for the **minor pentatonic scale**?
 - c. What kind of triad is the minor pentatonic built on, and in what kind of musical settings is it commonly used?
4. Given that the C major scale is C, D, E, F, G, A, B — what are the notes in the **C minor pentatonic**?

5. What is the difference between the **blues scale** and the **minor pentatonic scale**?

Volume 1, Chapter 11

1. How many notes are in the natural minor scale?
2. What is the interval formula for the natural minor scale?
3. Which specific interval gives the natural minor scale its "minor" quality?
4. Given that the notes of the C major scale are C, D, E, F, G, A, B — what are the notes of the C natural minor scale?
5. What is the mode name for the natural minor scale?
6. How is the minor pentatonic scale related to the natural minor scale?

Volume 1, Chapter 12

1. How many chords are in a minor key chord family?
2. What is the name of the scale that these chords come from?
3. In any major key, what is the 6th chord called, and why is that important?
4. Given that the chords in D major are: D, Em, F#m, G, A, Bm, C#dim — what are the chords in the B minor chord family?
5. In a minor key chord family:
 - a. What are the chord qualities of I, IV, and V?
 - b. What are the chord qualities of III, VI, and VII?
 - c. What is the chord quality of II?
6. Which two chords in the minor key chord family are often changed to major to add color or variety?
7. Here is a chord sequence in the key of C# minor: | C#m | E | A | B |
 - a. What are the Roman numerals for each chord?
 - b. What is the parent scale for this progression?
 - c. Which two scales could you use to improvise over this progression?