Theory Placement Exam - Sample Questions

Scales
1. You will hear a series of scales. Identify each as a major scale, a natural minor scale, a harmonic minor scale, or none of the above.
   (A) Major ____ Nat. Major ____ Harm. Minor ____ None of the Above ____
   (B) Major ____ Nat. Major ____ Harm. Minor ____ None of the Above ____

Intervals (Aural Recognition)
2. You will hear a series of intervals. Identify each as a minor third, a major third, or none of the above.
   (A) Major 3rd ____ Minor 3rd ____ Neither ____
   (B) Major 3rd ____ Minor 3rd ____ Neither ____

3. You will hear a series of intervals. Identify each as a minor second, a major second, an augmented second, or none of the above.
   (A) Minor 2nd ____ Major 2nd ____ Augmented 2nd ____ None of the Above ____
   (B) Minor 2nd ____ Major 2nd ____ Augmented 2nd ____ None of the Above ____

4. You will hear a series of intervals. Identify each as a perfect fifth, a perfect fourth, a diminished fifth, or none of the above.
   (A) Perfect 5th ____ Perfect 4th ____ Diminished 5th ____ None of the Above ____
   (B) Perfect 5th ____ Perfect 4th ____ Diminished 5th ____ None of the Above ____

Chords
5. You will hear a series of three-note chords. Identify each as a major, minor, or diminished triad, or as none of the above.
   (A) Major ____ Minor ____ Diminished ____ None of the Above ____
   (B) Major ____ Minor ____ Diminished ____ None of the Above ____

6. You will hear a series of four-note chords. Identify each as a dominant (Mm) seventh, a major (MM) seventh, a minor (mm) seventh, a fully diminished (dd, ?) seventh, or none of the above.
   (A) Dom 7 ____ Major 7 ____ Minor 7 ____ Fully dim 7 ____ None of the Above ____
   (B) Dom 7 ____ Major 7 ____ Minor 7 ____ Fully dim 7 ____ None of the Above ____

Melody and Rhythm
You will hear a brief song you probably know.
7. Write down the time signature and the rhythm of the first phrase.
8. What scale degree does the song start on (do = 1, mi = 3, etc.)? ______

You will hear a brief song you do not know; the key will be clearly established beforehand.
9. Write down the time signature and the rhythm of the first phrase.
10. What scale degree does the song start on (do = 1, mi = 3, etc.)? ______