Graduate Placement Test Study Guide
George Mason University School of Music

Part I: Listening/Score Analysis
You will be given three pairs of score excerpts, and you will hear each excerpt once. Within each pair, place the pieces in chronological order and give an approximate date for each work. Discuss the aspects of the pieces that lead you to date them as you do.

Part II: Music History
You will be given several groups of composers and asked to discuss in detail the musical style, compositions, and importance of one composer from each group chosen.

Part III: Theory
You will be expected to be familiar with basic theory concepts covered in a 4-semester undergraduate theory curriculum. Topics include, but are not limited to, lead-sheet symbols, Roman numeral analysis, figured bass, cadence types, non-chord tones, secondary dominants and seventh chords, modulation, augmented sixth chords, Neapolitan sixths, chromatic mediants, small forms, 20th-century techniques.

Part IV: Sight Singing
A. Interval
B. Melodies: diatonic, chromatic

Part V: Ear Training
A. Melodic Intervals
B. Harmonic Intervals
C. Diatonic Melodies
D. Chord Identification (Root Position, 1st & 2nd Inversions)
E. Outervoices & Chord Functions in Four-part Texture

Part VI: Keyboard Skills

Prepared Skills: The following skills/reertoire should be practiced in advance of the testing and must be well-prepared to be acceptable:

1. Scales (2 Octaves), Arpeggios (2 Octaves), and standard chord progression (e.g. I, IV, V7, I), in any major or minor key.
2. One prepared piece on the difficulty level of JS Bach’s Anna Magdalena’s Bach Book or more difficult level.
5. Play from standard lead sheet
6. Play a simple accompaniment from a vocal or instrumental piece.