

MSC 3003 – Music in the Classic Era, Spring 2020

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Take-home midterm exam

Welcome to our take-home exam. The following nine questions are based on our assigned readings, which you can find in PDF form on our class website.

In our guide to the in-class midterm (which I gave you before the shutdown of campus) I said that I wanted plenty of detail in your answers, including names, places, and dates. I still do! However, in an in-person exam you are naturally limited by how much of this info you can stuff into your brain. It is rare that a student writes too much.

Since our take-home version is “open book,” you are going to need to resist the temptation to paraphrase the whole text for me. Thus, each question has a word limit. The challenge here is not only to get detail in your answers, but to get the *right* details, and to include them in an answer that hits the most important ideas without going off on unnecessary tangents.

Most word processors have a word count tool in there, and there are web sites like easywordcount.com that will do it for you as well.

Due date is **Tuesday, April 7**. However, in this perilous environment due dates are all negotiable – if you need an extension, just ask.

Submit by email, or ask if you want to mail me something via post office.

QUESTIONS

1) How did the Rococo Period pave the way for the Classic Period? What are some of the new artistic trends? [8 points, 100 words max]

2) Tell me about Haydn’s early music education. How did the son of a wheelwright and cook become a professional musician and composer? [8 points, 150 words max]

3) How did Haydn end up going to London? [4 points, 50 words max]

4) What was Haydn's source of income in London? [4 points, 50 words max]

5) What are some ways that Mozart's relationship with his father became a limitation as time went on? [8 points, 100 words max]

6) What were some of Mozart's sources of income in Vienna? [8 points, 150 words max]

7) What were some of the goal and beliefs of the Enlightenment (or Aufklärung, as it was called in German?) [8 points, 150 words max.]

8) Describe Beethoven's musical studies while in Vienna (in 1792-4). [8 points, 150 words max]

9) How did Beethoven benefit from the various people he met in Vienna (in 1792-4). [8 points, 150 words max.]

MORE COMMENTS

You might notice that our point values only add up to 64 points. I'll give you the remaining 36 for free. My general scoring strategy will probably be to give 8 points for an excellent answer, 6 for a good one, 4 for a "nice try," probably 2 for writing almost anything.

Please don't feel that you *have* to come close to the maximum number of words. These are just my guesses as to how much a person who likes to write could reasonably say (before it gets excessive). It may be possible to write a full-credit answer with 50 words even if I'm allowing you 150.

You can look at Wikipedia for additional facts if needed. (For instance, when I was writing a test answer there was one date I wanted that didn't seem to appear in the text, so I looked it up. I would be fine with that.) I do want you to base your answers mostly on our readings, though.

Please don't copy-and-paste information from the internet and then try to vary the wording to make it "your own." This is a terrible habit that some CUNY students have. It's usually very easy to detect – all I have to do is pick one weird phrase that sticks out and doesn't sound like something the student would write. If I feed it into google it leads right to the source! (Then I can usually see how the whole thing is just a copy-and-paste job with words strategically rewritten.) Answers that are copied-and-pasted will not get you the full points.

OK, feel free to ask questions! Happy midterms.