

Theory FAQ

Q. My student took Level 3A in 2019 and got 90%, so for what level should I register them in 2020?

A. Level 4. The letter A was added only to the 2019 tests as we were transitioning to the new syllabus.

Q. My student didn't take a test in 2019, but took Level 6 in 2018, what level should I register in 2020 in order to go forward?

A. Level 6, since level 6 of the new syllabus corresponds to Level 7 of the old syllabus. (The RCM books begin with the Preparatory level, which corresponds to our old Level 1).

Q. I have registered a student for a wrong level, or misspelled their name. What do I do?

A. Because of online registration, it's not possible to change the level (or name) after the registration is closed for this center. If the registration is still open, you can change the student's level or name before the deadline. If the deadline has passed, you can register this student for a different center, if their registration is still open. Please note that the entry fee is not refundable; you will need to pay the entry fee again for the new center.

Q. Can a student take 3 levels in the same year?

A. No, a student is allowed to take only 2 levels per year.

Q. My student is not able to take the exam for the date I registered them. Can I transfer them to a different center?

A. No, we no longer allow transfers to different centers. However, you can register this student again for a different center (and pay another entry fee) if the registration is still open for that center. If you must register for a different center, we cannot refund the original application.

Q. Do we need to use the RCM Celebrate Theory workbooks? Can I prepare students using different books?

A. It is not recommended: the syllabus, terminology, syntax, and concepts are different in the RCM books compared to other sources, which most likely will lead to the student not passing the test or passing it with a low grade. Also, we sometimes ask questions about specific pieces showcased in the RCM books.

Q. The RCM Celebrate Theory workbooks don't have ear training. Where do I find the ear training requirements for the MSMTA Theory Exam?

A. The MSMTA Theory Syllabus can be found in the members-only section of the website. It lists all the ear training requirements for each level.

Q. What additional materials can I use to prepare my students?

A. There are free tests (2019) available for download from the MSMTA website. Additionally, you can buy practice tests from RCM for Levels 5-8. Each booklet level consists of 3-4 practice tests.

Q. What are the best resources for students to use to practice for the ear training portions of the exams?

A. There are many ear-training programs and applications available. Here are some of them: <https://www.teoria.com/en/exercises/> (free), **Tenuto**, **Eartrainer** (iPad/iPhone app), **Music Ace** for younger students, **Auralia** (very comprehensive ET program)

Q. What are the requirements for getting Theory Awards?

A. **Intermediate Theory Award:** 5 levels at 90%+; **Senior Theory Award** 5 levels at 90%+ including Level 7 (for 2019, 2020) or above; **Distinguished Theory Award** (Level 11 at 90%+)

Q. My student started taking tests on Level 3. Can she get 2 awards (Intermediate and Senior) when she will have passed Level 7?

A. No, a student cannot receive 2 awards for the same five levels. However, the Senior award can use levels from the intermediate award. For example, the student received Intermediate awards for Levels 2-6, and the following year that student took level 7. In the application, the teacher can use levels 3-6 in addition to level 7 in order to satisfy the requirements for the senior award.

Q. My student took five levels (Prep - 4) and passed all levels with 90% except Level 2. Can the student retake this level in order to qualify for the Intermediate award?

A. No. Students may not retake a level lower than one they've already passed. The only exception is if a student took two levels in one year but achieved 90% on a higher level. In this case, next year the student can retake the level on which they did not reach 90%. For example: a student took Level 2 and 3 in 2019, received 90% on Level 3 but only 85% on Level 2. In 2020 this student can take Level 4 and retake Level 2.

Q. Can I request that a Theory Trophy to be ready by a certain date?

A. No. Award orders are sent to Crown Trophy once or twice a month after a number of teachers have applied for awards. Then, Crown Trophy takes up to 2 weeks to process the order. Therefore, depending on when the application was received, it could take 3-6 weeks for teachers to receive the trophies.