



## How to EXEMPT the Georgia Auditions Theory Exam (GATE) Requirements

Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, every piano or piano concerto participant in GMTA's local, regional, and state auditions must take and pass one of three theory exams ("GATEs") in order to advance beyond local auditions.

Grades	GATE Level
4, 5, 6	A
7, 8, 9	B
10, 11, 12	C

For example, if a student participates in piano or piano concerto every year from grades 4 through 12, that student would be required to sit for 9 total GATE tests: Level A during grades 4, 5, & 6; Level B during grades 7, 8, & 9; and Level C during grades 10, 11, & 12.

However, students may become EX-EMPT from taking some or all of the GATEs if they achieve any of the following scores on the GMTA Theory Tests.

For more information on the GMTA Theory Exams, visit GMTA's website:

<http://georgiamta.org/studentActivities-TAT.php>

		GATE Exemptions		
GMTA Theory Test	Score	Exempt from Level A	Exempt from Level B	Exempt from Level C
Level II	90 or above	Yes	No	No
Level III	90 or above	Yes	Yes	No
Level IV	85 or above	Yes	Yes	Yes
Level V	80 or above	Yes	Yes	Yes

**❑ When will the exemptions start to apply?**

- If a local association offers the GMTA Theory Test in the fall, the exemption can take place for the current school year if the tests are mailed to the GMTA Theory Test Administrator by December 1 for grading. Otherwise, the exemptions become effective the year after a student earns a qualifying grade. For example, if a student takes GMTA Theory Test Level III during the 2015-2016 academic year and earns a score of 95, that student will be exempt from GATE Level A and GATE Level B starting the following academic year, 2016-2017.

**❑ How long will an exemption last?**

- Once earned, an exemption is permanent for that student through grade 12.

**❑ I forgot my GMTA Theory Test scores. How can I find out if I've earned an exemption?**

- A comprehensive list of students who have earned exemptions will be published on GMTA's website. (See <http://georgiamta.org/studentActivities-GATE.php>) If you believe your name has been left off the list in error, please contact the GATE Administrator right away: Colette Keogh, [cakeogh16@gmail.com](mailto:cakeogh16@gmail.com).

**❑ What if I don't earn any exemptions and just don't take the GATE next spring?**

- Then you may still participate in your LA's local auditions next spring, but you will not be eligible to be considered to advance to regional and/or state auditions.

**❑ How low can I aim and, with just one GMTA Theory Test, earn exemptions from every GATE level?**

- Since the GMTA Theory Tests are graded using a lenient rounding-up policy, you could score an 84.1 on the Level IV test, and it will be rounded up to 85. You will then be exempt from all GATE levels.

If you have questions that are not addressed here, please email them to one of the email addresses below. The answers to your questions will be posted on the theory sections of the GMTA website as FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

For questions about the GATEs, email: [GATE.theory.questions@gmail.com](mailto:GATE.theory.questions@gmail.com)

For questions about the GMTA Theory Tests, email: [GMTA.theory.questions@gmail.com](mailto:GMTA.theory.questions@gmail.com)