

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

Every piano or piano concerto participant in GMTA's local, regional, and state auditions must take and pass one of four theory exams (GATE's) in order to advance beyond local auditions. However, students may become EXEMPT from taking some or all of the GATE's if they achieve any of the following scores on GMTA Theory Tests.

GMTA Theory Test	Score	Exempt from Level A	Exempt from Level B	Exempt from Level C	Exempt from Level D
Level 5	90 or above	Yes	No	No	No
Level 7	90 or above	Yes	Yes	No	No
Level 9	85 or above	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Level 10	80 or above	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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

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

o 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 7 during the 2024-2025 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, 2025-2026.

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

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

**What if my student does not earn any exemption and does not pass the GATE in the Spring?**

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

**How do I know my student is exempt?**

o 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).

**For questions about the GATE or GMTA Theory Tests, email:  
[dianelboyd@comcast.net](mailto:dianelboyd@comcast.net)**