

## GENERAL FORMULA FOR GRADING PART-WRITING

The total number of points for most part-writing exercises equals approximately three points per chord (or four points per chord for melody harmonizations, because they're harder). A seven-chord figured bass exercise, for example, would be worth 21 points. From this total, points are subtracted based on how serious an error is. The common errors are grouped below.

Three-point errors	Two-point errors	One-point errors	Half-point errors
parallel fifths, octaves, or unisons consecutive ("antiparallel") fifths or octaves missing root or third "retrogression" (e.g., V-IV) impossible harmonization (e.g., $\hat{2}$ as given bass note harmonized with I) really terrible use of $\frac{6}{4}$ chord omitted chord (i.e., blank)	unresolved dissonance (if doubled in outer voice, outer voice must resolve; otherwise, either one may resolve) doubled dissonance poor/weak progression with no change of function (e.g., IV-iii or ii-IV) inappropriate use of $\frac{6}{4}$ chord bad direct fifth or octave improperly resolved leading-tone in an outer voice inappropriately weak cadence (e.g., inverted chords)	doubled leading-tone unraised $\hat{7}$ in minor wrong note (each) missing voice (each) improperly resolved leading-tone in an inner voice moderately bad direct fifth or octave voice crossing omitted fifth in root position for no apparent reason wrong inversion incomplete inverted chord missing seventh or added seventh (i.e., triad was specified) bad melodic interval (A2, A4, seventh, etc.) unprepared dissonance leap down into seventh unbalanced leap (but not $\hat{1}-\hat{4}-\hat{5}$ in bass) melodic leap into perfect interval with bass (contrary motion; not $\hat{4}-\hat{2}$ over $\hat{4}-\hat{5}$ ) excessive leaping in upper parts that is avoidable harmonic prolongation from weak beat to strong beat root-position diminished triad weak/peculiar chord like $\text{iii}^6$ voice out of range no PD at authentic cadence	bad spacing voice overlap (no penalty if difficult to avoid)