

## Phrase Structure

*Phrase*: a segment of music containing one and only one cadence; the only recognized cadence types for this exam are the PAC, IAC, and HC

*Cadence*: defines a phrase; includes at minimum a root-position dominant chord and nearly always a PD

*Perfect Authentic Cadence (PAC)*: root position V to root position I, with  $\hat{1}$  in the soprano over the tonic chord

*Imperfect Authentic Cadence (IAC)*: root position V to root position I, with  $\hat{3}$  in the soprano over the tonic chord

*Half Cadence (HC)*: root position V chord (triad or seventh chord), typically with  $\hat{2}$  in the soprano

*Subphrase*: a segment of music that sounds cohesive and distinct but does not end with a cadence

*Sentence*: one phrase, divided into three subphrases with short-short-long proportions. The first phrase presents a basic idea, the second subphrase repeats the basic idea (often with variation), and the third subphrase features fragmentation of the basic idea leading to a cadence.

*Period*: two phrases, the first ending with a weaker cadence and the second ending with a stronger cadence.

*Parallel period*: a period where each phrase begins with the same material

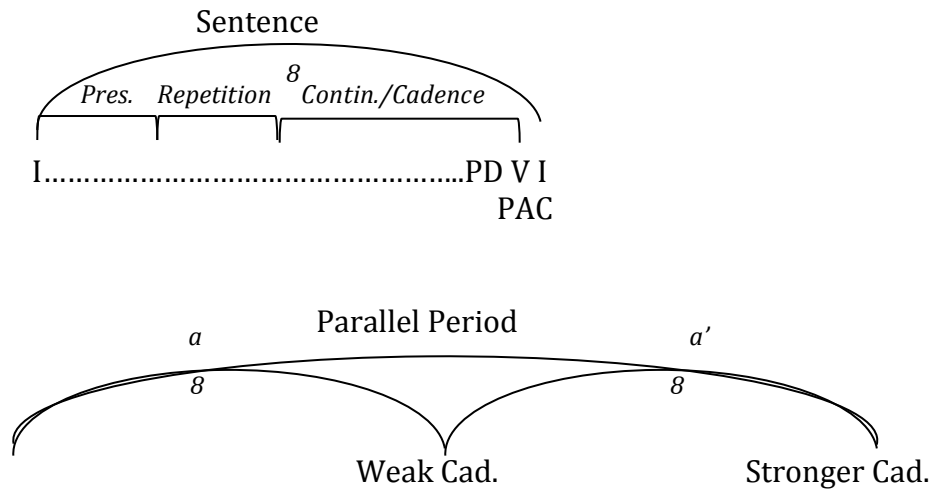
*Contrasting period*: a period where the two phrases do not begin with the same material

*Phrase group*: phrases that seem to go together but do not meet the criteria for a period

### Diagramming Phrase Structure

- Phrases are marked with a curved slur, ending with a cadence
- Subphrases are marked with brackets
- Phrase/subphrase lengths are shown with numbers under the slur or bracket
- Lowercase letters show how phrases relate
- Phrase structure labels go above the slurs

Examples:



For more information on this topic see *Musician's Guide* pp. 241–249, 354–370.