

secondary dominants

level 1: example from CM level 9, 2010: „using the Major key, label each of the following chords.“

CHORD A CHORD B
— / — —

1. chord A will be a I^6 , just need to find the figured bass

2. chord B is in the Major key, as specified.

Answer: $\text{I}^6_2 / \text{IV}^5_3$

when written as — / — —, these two blanks should match

what do you need to figure out a secondary dominant example?	• which key? Major/minor	→ given in example
	• scale degree of second chord	→ count using key given
	• inversions of both chords	→ figure out from inversion drawn

level 2: key not specified (similar to „identify in passage“ problems)

— of —

1. find quality of chord B & inversion

2. determine key & scale degree

3. check that chord A is I^6 of chord B, find inversion

Answer: I^4_3 of iii

(this is the same as writing $\text{I}^4_3 / \text{iii}$)

• which key? Major or minor	→ figured out using the quality of chord B.
• scale degree of second chord	→
• inversions of both chords	→ found from example inversion drawn

level 3: write the secondary dominant

$\text{I}^2 / \text{iii}^6_3$ iii^6_3

1. figure out key (M/m)

2. write chord B

3. top note of root position chord B is bottom note of RP chord A

4. add accidentals and invert according to instructions

$\text{I}^2 / \text{iii}^6_3$ iii^6_3
(same as writing I^2 of iii^6_3)

• which key?	→ figure out using quality of chord B
• scale degree of second chord	→ given
• inversions of both chords	→ given

level 4: chord B not given, key not given

— of —

1. count down 5 to chord B 2. determine key

3. invert chord B

4. identify chord A inversion

Answer: I^4_3 of V

• which key?	→ use quality of chord B to find
• scale degree of chord B	→ count down from chord A
• inversions	→ chord B given, chord A find

OVERALL TIPS:

- first chord is always I^6 of some type
- A/B B' is the same as A of B
(— / — —) (— of —)