AP Music Theory

It isn't too complicated. We only offer AP Theory every other year so I always have to refresh myself too. This is our year so I didn't do it last year. But it's not bad. The audacity portion is more stressful for me than the group administration with the CD. It will walk you through it and tell you everything. It plays through pretty much the whole time so it keeps the appropriate time and everything. I usually listen to it the day before to make sure the equipment works and the sound quality is good. I use my old CD player that literally only comes out of the closet every other year for that test, so I always like to check. Audacity isn't bad, I just always have to get familiar with it and play around with it a little bit so that I'm comfortable for the individual portion.  AP Theory is definitely more work than most AP tests, but once you get all the materials and look through them it will make sense. Good luck :)

AP Music Theory is the worst…CB may not want you to, but I think you could listen to the CD when it arrives and then reseal it so you know it hasn’t been tampered with. Probably a good idea to test that it works anyway. It’s only two tracks and total they’re probably not over 10 minutes – one track has directions you play for the whole group before you start taking them to record individually (unless you’re using a language lab or something).

It’s really not hard, it’s the technology part. One year I recorded them all (it was about 12) and then went to upload them and they were gone…just not on the memory card. All the students had to redo them. I think that was a tech issue and now I have them do it in my office and I put it right on my computer before they leave so I know it’s there. Really, you have to show them how to use the recorder, but they’re AP students and they pick up right away. You don’t have to do anything – the actual time you’re with them is like 10 minutes. You’re supposed to push play and then they do the rest; it’s just one track and the timings are built in. The voice on the track tells them what to do at every point – when to start recording, stop recording, it has 75 seconds of practice time built in, 20 seconds for the actual recording, etc.. Their AP teacher should also be preparing them for what they have to do so it’s not like you’ll be asking them to do something completely foreign to them. You also need to quarantine the group that hasn’t done it yet so that when you release the ones who have done it, they don’t go back and tell the other students what the two questions are.

It’s not as tricky as it might sound. My advice would be to get a couple counselors and practice on them; make sure you know who’s going where and when, sit them down, simulate the whole thing with the CD and have them record. It’s also a bit awkward for you because you have to stand there while they do it; they’re usually not kids who are self-conscious, but I usually stand behind them so I can see if the recorder is recording but also so they don’t see me and feel pressure or something. But really, don’t stress too much about it.