

SESSION SKILLS PLAYBACK

For your exam, you can choose either Playback or Improvising.

If you choose Playback, you will be asked to play some music you have not seen or heard before.

In the exam, you will be given the song chart and the examiner will play a recording of the music. You will hear several two-bar phrases on the recording; you should play each of them straight back in turn. There's a rhythm track going throughout, which helps you keep in time. There should not be any gaps in the music.

In the exam you will have two chances to play with the recording:

- First time – for practice
- Second time – for assessment.

You should listen to the audio, copying what you hear; you can also read the music from the song chart. Here are some practice song charts which are also on the included MP3s.

Don't forget that the Playback test can include requirements which may not be shown in these examples, including those from earlier grades. Check the parameters in the syllabus to prepare everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 100

Measures 1-4 of Practice playback 1. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the bass clef. Measure 1: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 2: C5, B4, A4, G4. Measure 3: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 4: C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). The fretboard notation below shows the fingerings: 0-0-3, 0-0-2, 0-0-3, 0-0-3-3-0.

5

Measures 5-8 of Practice playback 1. Measure 5: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 6: C5, B4, A4, G4. Measure 7: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 8: C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamics are marked *f* (forte). The fretboard notation below shows the fingerings: 3-3-0-0-2, 3-3-2-2-0-0, 0-0-3, 0-0-3-3-0.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 94

Measures 1-4 of Practice playback 2. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the bass clef. Measure 1: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 2: C5, B4, A4, G4. Measure 3: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 4: C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamics are marked *f* (forte). The fretboard notation below shows the fingerings: 3-2-3, 0-0, 2-0-2-2, 0-2.

5

Measures 5-8 of Practice playback 2. Measure 5: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 6: C5, B4, A4, G4. Measure 7: F#4, G4, A4, B4. Measure 8: C5, B4, A4, G4. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). The fretboard notation below shows the fingerings: 3-2-0, 3-2-0, 0-3-2, 0-0-2-0.

SESSION SKILLS IMPROVISING

For your exam, you can choose either Playback, or Improvising. If you choose to improvise, you will be asked to improvise over a backing track that you haven't heard before in a specified style.

In the exam, you will be given a song chart and the examiner will play a recording of the backing track. The backing track consists of a passage of music played on a loop. You should improvise a bass line which fits the track.

In the exam you will have two chances to play with the recording:

- First time – for practice
- Second time – for assessment.

Here are some improvising charts for practice which are also on the included MP3s.

Don't forget that the Improvising test can include requirements which may not be shown in these examples, including those from earlier grades. Check the parameters in the syllabus to prepare everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 140 **Heavy Rock**



Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 120 **Pop**

