

# 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. 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 for everything which might come up in your exam.

## Practice playback 1

♩ = 132

Practice playback 1 is a musical score in 4/4 time with a tempo of 132 beats per minute. It consists of two systems of music. The first system starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the bass line is written on a double staff (T and B). The first system is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system starts with a mezzo-forte (*p*) dynamic, followed by a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as fret numbers (0, 2, 3) and fingerings (3, 0, 3, 3, 0, 3, 0, 0).

## Practice playback 2

♩ = 126

Practice playback 2 is a musical score in 4/4 time with a tempo of 126 beats per minute. It consists of two systems of music. The first system starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the bass line is written on a double staff (T and B). The first system is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system starts with a mezzo-forte (*p*) dynamic, followed by a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as fret numbers (0, 2, 3) and fingerings (3, 2, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3).

# 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 for everything which might come up in your exam.

## Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 110 **Heavy Rock**

||: 4/4 | D | G | A | Em | :||

## Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 100 **Country**

||: 3/4 | F | Dm | C | G | :||