

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 or four-bar phrases: 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:

- 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.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 116

First system of Practice playback 1. Bass staff with notes and fingerings (0, 4, 2, 4, 0, 4, 2). Dynamics: *f*.

Second system of Practice playback 1. Bass staff with notes and fingerings (0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 2, 0, 0, 4, 4, 4, 2, 0, 4). Dynamics: *mp*.

Third system of Practice playback 1. Bass staff with notes and fingerings (2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 0, 3, 0, 2, 4, 2, 4, 0, 0). Dynamics: *mf* and *f*.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 106 **Swung**

First system of Practice playback 2. Bass staff with notes and fingerings (1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 3). Dynamics: *mf*.

Second system of Practice playback 2. Bass staff with notes and fingerings (1, 3, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, 3, 0, 3, 1, 1). Dynamics: *p* and *f*.

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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:

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

Here are some improvising charts for practice.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 120 **Blues (swung)**

A musical chart for Practice improvisation 1 in 4/4 time. The chart consists of two lines. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), indicating G major. It contains four measures: G, D, G⁷, and C. The second line starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), indicating B minor. It contains four measures: Bm, G, D⁷, and G. The chart is marked with a repeat sign at the beginning and end, and a double bar line with a repeat sign at the end of the second line.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 100 **Heavy Rock**

A musical chart for Practice improvisation 2 in 4/4 time. The chart consists of two lines. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), indicating G major. It contains four measures: Bm, Em, G⁷, and C. The second line starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), indicating B minor. It contains four measures: Am, Bm, Em, and Bm. The chart is marked with a repeat sign at the beginning and end, and a double bar line with a repeat sign at the end of the second line.