

# 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

♩. = 120

Gm B $\flat$  Cm Gm B $\flat$  Cm Gm

*mf*

5 Gm B $\flat$  Cm D Gm B $\flat$  Cm D

*mp*

9 Cm D

*f* *sfz*

13 Gm B $\flat$  Cm Gm Cm Gm

*mf*

## Practice playback 2

$\text{♩} = 90$

E

*mf*

5

F#m A E

*mp* *mf*

9

B

*pp* *sfz*

13

E Bm E

*f* *ff*

This musical score is for a bass guitar piece in E major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 90 beats per minute. It consists of 16 measures, divided into four systems of four measures each. The notation includes a bass staff with notes and a tablature staff with fret numbers (0, 2, 4, 5). Dynamic markings include *mf*, *mp*, *pp*, *sfz*, *f*, and *ff*. Chord symbols E, F#m, A, B, and Bm are placed above the staff. The piece features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The tablature indicates specific fretting techniques, including double stops and slides.

# 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:

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

Here are some improvising charts for practice.

## Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 90 Funk

A three-line bass line chart for Funk style at 90 BPM. The first line starts at measure 1 with a double bar line and a '12/8' time signature, followed by chords Fm, A<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, and B<sup>b</sup>. The second line starts at measure 5 with a double bar line, followed by chords Fm, A<sup>b</sup>, Gm<sup>7</sup>, Fm<sup>7</sup>, and A<sup>b</sup>. The third line starts at measure 9 with a double bar line, followed by chords Cm<sup>7</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, D<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>sus<sup>4</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, Fm<sup>7</sup>, and ends with a repeat sign. The chart is set on a five-line staff with a double bar line at the beginning of each line.

## Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 120 Disco

A three-line bass line chart for Disco style at 120 BPM. The first line starts at measure 1 with a double bar line and a '4/4' time signature, followed by chords B, Emaj<sup>7</sup>, B, G<sup>#</sup>m, and F<sup>#</sup>. The second line starts at measure 5 with a double bar line, followed by chords E, Bmaj<sup>7</sup>, D<sup>#</sup>m, and F<sup>#</sup>. The third line starts at measure 9 with a double bar line, followed by chords G<sup>#</sup>m, B, F<sup>#</sup>sus<sup>4</sup>, F<sup>#</sup>, B, and ends with a repeat sign. The chart is set on a five-line staff with a double bar line at the beginning of each line.