

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 four-bar to eight-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.

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 at www.trinityrock.com to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 70 (♩ = ♩ throughout)

System 1:

Chords: C^{#5}, 8^{va}, 8^{va}, E⁵, F^{#5}, G⁵, F^{#5}, B⁵, C^{#5}

Dynamic: *ff*

Tempo: N.H. (Normal Half)

System 2:

Chords: F^{#5}, G⁵, F^{#5}, G⁵, F^{#5}, C^{#5}, F^{#5}

Dynamic: *f*

System 3:

Chords: C^{#5}, F^{#5}

System 4:

Chords: C^{#5}, E⁵, F^{#5}, A⁵, C^{#5}, E⁵, F^{#5}, A⁵, C^{#5}, E⁵, F^{#5}, A⁵, G⁵, F^{#5}, B⁵, C^{#5}

Dynamic: *pp* to *f*

System 5:

Chords: C^{#5}, E⁵, F^{#5}, A⁵, C^{#5}, E⁵, F^{#5}, A⁵, C^{#5}

Dynamic: *ff* to *sfz*

BASS GRADE 8

Practice playback 2

♩ = 74

B^bm7

E^b7

B^bm7

E^b7

First system of music notation (measures 1-2). The bass line features a series of eighth notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 6, 8, and 9. The treble line has a single note G₂ in the first measure, marked with a cross (x), and a single note G₂ in the second measure, also marked with a cross (x). The dynamic is *f*.

B^bm7

E^b7

B^bm7

E^b7

B^bm7

Second system of music notation (measures 3-4). The bass line continues with eighth notes and rests, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 3. The treble line has a single note G₂ in measure 3, marked with a cross (x), and a single note G₂ in measure 4, also marked with a cross (x). The dynamic is *f*.

B^bm7

Third system of music notation (measures 5-6). The bass line features a series of eighth notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 6, 8, and 9. The treble line has a single note G₂ in measure 5, marked with a cross (x), and a single note G₂ in measure 6, also marked with a cross (x). The dynamic is *mf*.

E^b

E^b7

E^b6

E^b

E^b

E^b7

E^b6

E^b

F

F7

F6

F

F

F7

F6

Fourth system of music notation (measures 7-8). The bass line features a series of eighth notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 6, 8, and 9. The treble line has a single note G₂ in measure 7, marked with a cross (x), and a single note G₂ in measure 8, also marked with a cross (x). The dynamic is *p*.

B^bm7

C^bmaj7(#4)

F7

G^bm

F7

Fifth system of music notation (measures 9-10). The bass line features a series of eighth notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 6, 8, and 9. The treble line has a single note G₂ in measure 9, marked with a cross (x), and a single note G₂ in measure 10, also marked with a cross (x). The dynamic is *f*.

B^bm7

Fm7

G^b

A^b

B^bm7

E^b7

B^bm7

E^b7

B^bm7

Sixth system of music notation (measures 11-12). The bass line features a series of eighth notes and rests, with fingerings indicated by numbers 6, 8, and 9. The treble line has a single note G₂ in measure 11, marked with a cross (x), and a single note G₂ in measure 12, also marked with a cross (x). The dynamic is *f*.

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.

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 at www.trinityrock.com to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice improvisation 1

$\text{♩} = 100$ **Jazz funk**

1 Cm^7 D^bmaj^7 E^b A^bmaj^9 G G^7

5 Cm^7 F^7 Cm^7 Fmaj^9 B^bm^7 A^7 A^bmaj^7 G^7

9 Cm^7 Fm^7 E^bsus^2 E^b Fm^7 Gm^7

13 N.C.

solo break-----

Practice improvisation 2

$\text{♩} = 80$ Samba

2/2

Em⁷ E^b7 Dm⁹ D^b7

5

Gsus⁴ Gm⁷ G^b7 Fmaj⁷ B^b9 C⁶

9

N.C.

solo break-----

13

E^b D⁷ D^bmaj⁷ C⁶ Em⁷ :||