

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 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

$\text{♩} = 80$

Measures 1-4: *f* (4/4 time, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes).
Measures 5-8: *mp* (4/4 time, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes).
Measures 9-12: *mf* (4/4 time, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes).
Measures 13-16: *f* (4/4 time, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes).

Practice playback 2

$\text{♩} = 84$

Ride

Measures 1-4: *f* (4/4 time, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes).
Measures 5-8: *mp* (4/4 time, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes).
Measures 9-12: *f* (4/4 time, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes).

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 drum groove to it.

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

♩ = 60 **Blues** (swung quavers)

Musical notation for Practice improvisation 1. The chart is written on two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures with chords: Am, C, Dm, and C. The second staff starts with a bass clef and contains four measures with chords: F, Am, E7, and Am. The chart ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. A large grey lightning bolt graphic is on the left side of the page.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 80 **Ballad**

Musical notation for Practice improvisation 2. The chart is written on two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures with chords: C, F, G, and Em. The second staff starts with a bass clef and contains four measures with chords: Am, F, Fm, and C. The chart ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.