

# 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: 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 audio:

- 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 included MP3s.

## Practice playback 1

♩ = 80

First system of musical notation for Practice playback 1. It consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (half). The guitar tablature below shows: 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 | 3 3 0 | 2 2 2.

5

Second system of musical notation for Practice playback 1, starting at measure 5. The melody is: E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (half), G3 (half). The guitar tablature below shows: 0 0 0 0 | 1 1 | 2 2 2 | 0 0.

## Practice playback 2

♩ = 90

First system of musical notation for Practice playback 2. It consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (half). The guitar tablature below shows: 0 2 2 | 0 0 2 | 0 2 2 | 0 0 2.

5

Second system of musical notation for Practice playback 2, starting at measure 5. The melody is: E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (half), G3 (half). The guitar tablature below shows: 0 0 0 | 3 3 0 | 2 2 2 0 | 2 2.

# 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 lead melodic line or rhythmic chords over it.


In the exam you will have two chances to play with the audio:

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

Here are some practice improvisation charts which are also on the included MP3s.

## Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 100 **Rock**



A musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 100 beats per minute, categorized as Rock. The staff contains four measures, each with a chord diagram. The first measure is a D major chord (D, F#, A), the second is a G major chord (G, B, D), the third is a D major chord (D, F#, A), and the fourth is a D major chord (D, F#, A). The staff ends with a repeat sign.

## Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 98 **Pop**



A musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 98 beats per minute, categorized as Pop. The staff contains four measures, each with a chord diagram. The first measure is an A minor chord (A, C, E), the second is an E minor chord (E, G, B), the third is an A minor chord (A, C, E), and the fourth is an A minor chord (A, C, E). The staff ends with a repeat sign.