

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:

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

You should listen to the audio, copying what you hear; you can also read the music from the song chart. Here are some practice song charts.

Practice playback 1

$\text{♩} = 100$

Measures 1-4 of Practice playback 1. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The first two measures are marked *p* (piano). The first measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The second measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The third measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The fourth measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The piece ends with a double bar line.

5

Measures 5-8 of Practice playback 1. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first two measures are marked *f* (forte). The first measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The second measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The third measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The fourth measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Practice playback 2

$\text{♩} = 110$

Measures 1-4 of Practice playback 2. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 110. The first two measures are marked *f* (forte). The first measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The second measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The third measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The fourth measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The piece ends with a double bar line.

5

Measures 5-8 of Practice playback 2. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first two measures are marked *f* (forte). The first measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The second measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The third measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The fourth measure contains a treble staff with a half note Bb and a bass staff with a half note Bb. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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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 lead melodic line or rhythmic chords over it.

In the exam you will have two chances to play:

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

Here are some practice improvisation charts.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 140 **Rock**



Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 60 **Country**

