

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

$\text{♩} = 116$

f

5

mp

9

mf

f

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Practice playback 1' in 4/4 time with a tempo of 116. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system (measures 1-4) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a dynamic marking of *f*. The bass clef part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The second system (measures 5-8) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The bass clef part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The third system (measures 9-12) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The bass clef part has a dynamic marking of *f* in the final measure.

Practice playback 2

$\text{♩} = 120$ **Swung**

f

5

p

mf

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Practice playback 2' in 3/4 time with a tempo of 120 and a 'Swung' feel. It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system (measures 1-4) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a dynamic marking of *f*. The bass clef part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The second system (measures 5-8) starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dynamic marking of *p*. The bass clef part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.

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 can choose whether to play a lead melodic line, rhythmic chords, or a combination of the two.

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

♩ = 80 **Blues (swung)**

Chord chart for Practice improvisation 1. The chart is written on two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures with chords: F, C, B^b, and C. The second staff starts with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures with chords: Dm, Am, C⁷, and F. The chart ends with a double bar line and repeat dots (:||).

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 100 **Heavy Rock**

Chord chart for Practice improvisation 2. The chart is written on two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures with chords: Gm, Cm, F, and Gm. The second staff starts with a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures with chords: F, B^b, D⁷, and Gm. The chart ends with a double bar line and repeat dots (:||).