

SESSION SKILLS

PLAYBACK

For your exam, you can choose either Playback or Improvising. If you choose Playback, you will be asked to perform 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 sing 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 perform 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 from the song chart. Here are some practice song charts which are also on the included MP3s. The music is printed without text and may be sung to any vowel (with or without consonant) or to sol-fa. The examples can include accents so you may need to use consonants or scat words to make them obvious.

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

$\text{♩} = 116$

f

5 *mp*

9 *mf* *f*

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Practice playback 1' in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of nine measures. Measure 1 starts with a dynamic of *f* and contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 2 has a whole rest. Measure 3 contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 4 has a whole rest. Measure 5 starts with a dynamic of *mp* and contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 6 contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 7 contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 8 has a whole rest. Measure 9 starts with a dynamic of *mf*, contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, and ends with a dynamic of *f* on a quarter note G4.

Practice playback 2

$\text{♩} = 120$ Swung

mf

5 *f* *mp*

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Practice playback 2' in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five measures. Measure 1 starts with a dynamic of *mf* and contains a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. Measure 2 contains a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. Measure 3 contains a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. Measure 4 contains a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. Measure 5 starts with a dynamic of *f*, contains a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3, and ends with a dynamic of *mp* on a quarter note G3.

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 melody line over the backing track.

In the exam you will have two chances to perform 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. The music is printed without text and may be sung to any vowel (with or without consonant) or to sol-fa.

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

♩ = 88 **Heavy Rock**

||: 3/4 | Dm | B^b | F | C |

5 | B^b | Dm | A⁷ | Dm | :||

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 60 **Blues** (swung quavers)

||: 4/4 | C | F | G | Am |

5 | Dm | Em | G⁷ | C | :||