

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

$\text{♩} = 116$

Measures 1-9 of a musical score in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1-4, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second staff contains measures 5-8, starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The third staff contains measures 9-12, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ending with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music features various rhythmic patterns including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and ties.

5

9

Practice playback 2

$\text{♩} = 120$ Swung

Measures 1-8 of a musical score in 3/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 1-4, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second staff contains measures 5-8, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The music features various rhythmic patterns including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and ties.

5

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**

1 Dm B^b F C

5 B^b Dm A⁷ Dm

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 60 **Blues** (swung quavers)

1 C F G Am

5 Dm Em G⁷ C