

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: 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:

- 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. The music is printed without text and may be sung to any vowel (with or without consonant) or to sol-fa. Some of the examples may include accents so you may need to use consonants or scat words to make them really obvious.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 90

Measures 1-9 of Practice playback 1. The score is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 90. The dynamics are *p* (piano) for measures 1-4, *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 5-6, *f* (forte) for measure 7, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) for measures 8-9. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. A repeat sign is at the end of measure 9.

5

9

Practice playback 2

♩ = 112

Measures 1-9 of Practice playback 2. The score is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 112. The dynamics are *mp* (mezzo-piano) for measures 1-4, *f* (forte) for measures 5-6, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 7-8, with a *p* (piano) dynamic at the end of measure 9. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some measures containing rests. A repeat sign is at the end of measure 9.

5

9

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:

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

Here are some improvising charts for practice. The music is printed without text and may be sung to any vowel (with or without consonant) or to sol-fa.

Practice improvisation 1

$\text{♩} = 80$ **Reggae**

4/4

Cm Fm Gm Cm Fm

⁵ Dm⁷ A^b Fm⁷ G⁷ Cm

Practice improvisation 2

$\text{♩} = 44$ **R'n'B**

6/8

E C[#]m Emaj⁷ F[#]m

⁵ C[#]m B F[#]m A E