

SESSION PLAYBACK SKILLS

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 for these to make them really obvious.

Practice playback 1

$\text{♩} = 100$

Measures 1-4: Gm^7 Cm^7 Dm^7 Cm . Dynamics: *p*.

Measures 5-8: Gm E^b7 Cm Gm^7 D . Dynamics: *mp*.

Measures 9-12: Cm^7 Gm^{add4} Gm Cm F . Dynamics: *mf*, *mp*, *sfz*.

Measures 13-16: B^bmaj^7 Cm^7 F Gm Cm Dm Gm . Dynamics: *ff*, *p*.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 60

12/8

mf

E G#m A A/C# Esus² E

3 *f* E A C#m B F# Bsus⁴ B *sfz*

5 *mf* A E B C#m⁷ F#m A B

7 *f* E Bsus² B Amaj⁷ B⁷ E N.C. *mf*

9 *mp* C#m Emaj⁷ A F#m G#m C#m A B *pp*

11 *f* E B C#m Amaj⁷ B⁷sus⁴/E E *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 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

♩. = 90 Funk

Practice improvisation 1 is a 12-measure chart in Funk style with a tempo of 90 beats per minute. The chart is divided into three lines of four measures each. The first line starts with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 12/8. The chords are: Fm (measures 1-2), Ab (measure 3), Bb (measure 4), Ab (measure 5), Bb (measure 6). The second line starts at measure 5 and contains: Fm (measures 5-6), Ab (measure 7), Gm7 (measure 8), Fm7 (measure 9), Ab (measure 10). The third line starts at measure 9 and contains: Cm7 (measures 9-10), Eb (measure 11), Db (measure 12), Bbsus4 (measure 13), Bb (measure 14), Fm7 (measure 15), and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots (measure 16).

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 120 Disco

Practice improvisation 2 is a 16-measure chart in Disco style with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The chart is divided into three lines of four measures each. The first line starts with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The chords are: B (measures 1-2), Emaj7 (measure 3), B (measure 4), G#m (measure 5), F# (measure 6). The second line starts at measure 5 and contains: E (measures 5-6), Bmaj7 (measure 7), D#m (measure 8), F# (measure 9). The third line starts at measure 9 and contains: G#m (measures 9-10), B (measure 11), F#sus4 (measure 12), F# (measure 13), B (measure 14), and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots (measure 16).