

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 phrases on the recording; 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 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. Here are some practice song charts – which are also on the included MP3s.

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 everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 72

First system of musical notation for Practice playback 1. It consists of a bass staff and a TAB staff. The bass staff is in 4/4 time and contains two measures of music, each with a repeat sign. The first measure has notes G2, A2, B2, and C3. The second measure has notes D3, E3, F3, and G3. The TAB staff shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0 for the first measure and 0, 0 for the second measure.

Second system of musical notation for Practice playback 1, starting at measure 5. The bass staff has two measures of music with repeat signs. The first measure has notes G2, A2, B2, and C3. The second measure has notes D3, E3, F3, and G3. The TAB staff shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 0 for the first measure and 0 for the second measure.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 84

First system of musical notation for Practice playback 2. It consists of a bass staff and a TAB staff. The bass staff is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of music, each with a repeat sign. The first measure has notes G2, A2, B2, and C3. The second measure has notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3. The TAB staff shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0 for the first measure and 3, 3, 3 for the second measure.

Second system of musical notation for Practice playback 2, starting at measure 5. The bass staff has two measures of music with repeat signs. The first measure has notes G2, A2, B2, and C3. The second measure has notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3. The TAB staff shows fret numbers: 0, 0 for the first measure and 3, 3, 3 for the second measure.

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 bass line which fits the track.

In the exam you will have two chances to play 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.

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 everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 120 **Rock**

Em Am Em Em

Detailed description: A musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. The staff contains four measures, each with a chord name above it: Em, Am, Em, and Em. The staff ends with a repeat sign. The time signature is 4/4.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 90 **Pop**

D A D D

Detailed description: A musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 90. The staff contains four measures, each with a chord name above it: D, A, D, and D. The staff ends with a repeat sign. The time signature is 4/4.