

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 or four-bar phrases: 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:

- 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.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 116

First system of musical notation for Practice playback 1. It consists of a bass staff and a guitar tablature staff. The bass staff is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The tablature staff shows fret numbers: 0 0 0 4 4 2 | 4 2 | 4 0 0 4 4 2.

Second system of musical notation for Practice playback 1, measures 5-8. The bass staff continues with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The tablature staff shows fret numbers: 0 0 0 0 3 | 3 2 0 | 0 4 4 4 2 0 | 4.

Third system of musical notation for Practice playback 1, measures 9-12. The bass staff starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The tablature staff shows fret numbers: 2 2 0 2 | 0 0 3 0 | 2 4 2 4 0 | 0.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 106 *Swung*

First system of musical notation for Practice playback 2. It consists of a bass staff and a guitar tablature staff. The bass staff is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The music starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The tablature staff shows fret numbers: | 3 | 3 | | | 3 3 | 3 3.

Second system of musical notation for Practice playback 2, measures 5-8. The bass staff starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The tablature staff shows fret numbers: | 3 0 3 2 | 0 3 | | 1 0 3 3 0 3 | | |

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:

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

Here are some improvising charts for practice.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 120 **Blues (swung)**

Musical notation for Practice improvisation 1. It consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are G, D, G⁷, and C. The second staff starts with a bass clef and a 5-measure rest. The notes are B_m, G, D⁷, and G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 100 **Heavy Rock**

Musical notation for Practice improvisation 2. It consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are B_m, Em, G⁷, and C. The second staff starts with a bass clef and a 5-measure rest. The notes are A_m, B_m, Em, and B_m. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.