

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 from the song chart. 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 for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 80

Musical notation for Practice playback 1, 4/4 time signature. The piece starts with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first two bars are marked *f* (forte) and the next two bars are marked *p* (piano). The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests. A second system starts at measure 5, also marked *f*.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 84

Musical notation for Practice playback 2, 4/4 time signature. The piece starts with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first two bars are marked *f* (forte) and the next two bars are marked *p* (piano). The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests. A second system starts at measure 5, marked *f*.

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 drum beat over it.

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 for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 120 **Heavy Rock**

Em Am C G

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. The staff contains four chord positions: Em, Am, C, and G. The staff ends with a repeat sign (:||).

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 94 **Pop**

G D C Am

A musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 94. The staff contains four chord positions: G, D, C, and Am. The staff ends with a repeat sign (:||).