

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 everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 100

Am Em Am

p

TAB: 1 0 2 | 0 2 2 | 1 1 1 0 | 2 2 2 2

5 Em Am

f

TAB: 0 3 1 | 0 1 3 | 2 0 1 | 0 2

Practice playback 2

♩ = 120

f

TAB: 0 0 | 3 0 3 | 0 0 | 3 0 0

5

p *f*

TAB: 0 2 0 | 1 1 1 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 2 2

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 can choose whether to play a lead melodic line, rhythmic chords, or a combination of the two.

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.

♩ = 140 **Heavy Rock**

Practice improvisation 1

A guitar chord chart for Practice improvisation 1. It is in 4/4 time and features four chords: Em, G, Am, and Em. The chart is represented by a horizontal line with four vertical bar lines. Above each bar line is a chord diagram for the specified chord. The first bar line is preceded by a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature. The last bar line is followed by a double bar line.

♩ = 110 **Pop**

Practice improvisation 2

A guitar chord chart for Practice improvisation 2. It is in 4/4 time and features four chords: C, G, Am, and C. The chart is represented by a horizontal line with four vertical bar lines. Above each bar line is a chord diagram for the specified chord. The first bar line is preceded by a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature. The last bar line is followed by a double bar line.