

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

♩ = 120

f

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

5

p

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

Practice playback 2

♩ = 118

p

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

5

f *p*

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

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 lead melodic line or rhythmic chords 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 practice improvisation charts 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 **Rock**

A guitar chart for a rock style piece. It starts with a 4/4 time signature. The chart is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. Above each measure is a chord diagram: D, A, G, and Em. The D chord diagram shows an open D string, an x on the 2nd string, and dots on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th strings. The A chord diagram shows an x on the 5th string, an open 4th string, and dots on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th strings. The G chord diagram shows an open G string, an x on the 5th string, and dots on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th strings. The Em chord diagram shows an open E string, an open 4th string, and dots on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th strings. The chart ends with a double bar line.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 100 **Country**

A guitar chart for a country style piece. It starts with a 4/4 time signature. The chart is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. Above each measure is a chord diagram: C, Am, Dm, and G. The C chord diagram shows an x on the 5th string, an open 4th string, and dots on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th strings. The Am chord diagram shows an x on the 5th string, an open 4th string, and dots on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th strings. The Dm chord diagram shows an x on the 5th string, an open 4th string, and dots on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th strings. The G chord diagram shows an open G string, an x on the 5th string, and dots on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th strings. The chart ends with a double bar line.