

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 four-bar to eight-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 for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 90 Country Swing

Musical notation for measures 1-3. Chords: B^b, Gm, F. Dynamic: *ff*. Includes guitar TAB with fret numbers: 6, 3, 4, 5, 3, 5, 3, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3.

Musical notation for measures 4-6. Chords: B^b, E^b, B^b. Dynamic: *mp*. Includes guitar TAB with fret numbers: 6, 6, 6, 6, 5, 6, 5, 5, 3, 5, 3, 3. Includes 'full' annotations with arrows.

Musical notation for measures 7-9. Chords: B^b, F. Dynamic: *pp* to *f*. Includes guitar TAB with fret numbers: 3, 5, 3, 4-6, 5-7, 6-8, 4, 3, 4-6, 5-7, 6, 4, 3, 1, 2.

Musical notation for measures 10-12. Chords: B^b, Gm, F, B^b. Dynamic: *f*. Includes guitar TAB with fret numbers: 3, 5, 6, 7, 6, 8, 6, 6, 8, 6, 8, 7, 5, 3, 5, 3, 3.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Chords: B^b, E^b, B^b, E^b/F, B^b. Includes guitar TAB with fret numbers: 3, 5, 3, 5, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 3, 6, 6.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 130 **Swung**

Musical notation for measures 1-4. Chords: F#m, Dmaj7, Bm7, C#7, F#m. Dynamics: *p*. TAB: 4 7 4 6 7 4 6 | 4 7 4 6 7 4 5 | 7 4 5 7 4 6 | 4 6 7 4 6 4

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Chords: F#m, E, F#m, E, C#7, F#m, C#7. Dynamics: *f*, *p*, *ff*. TAB: 2 3 2 2 0 0 | 2 3 2 2 4 2 | 3 0 3 2 2 4 | 2 3 2

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Chords: F#m7, D7, C#7, D7, C#7, F#m7. Dynamics: *mf*. TAB: 6 7 4 5 4 7 6 7 4 | 5 4 7 4 6 | 7 4 5 4 2 4 2 4 2 | 4

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Chords: F#m, F#7, B7, E7, C#7, F#m. Dynamics: *pp*, *mp*, *ff*. TAB: 11 11 9 10 9 | 12 9 12 11 | 11 12 11 10 | 10 12 10 12 10 9

Musical notation for measures 17-20. Chords: F#m, C#7, Bm7, C#7, F#m. Dynamics: *pp*, *mp*, *ff*. TAB: 7 4 6 4 | 4 4 7 6 | 6 7 6 4 7 6 4 | 8 4 7 4

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 for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 100 **Jazz funk**

1 Cm7 D^bmaj⁷ E^b A^bmaj⁹ G G⁷

5 Cm⁷ F⁷ Cm⁷ Fmaj⁹ B^bm⁷ A⁷ A^bmaj⁷ G⁷

9 Cm⁷ Fm⁷ E^bsus² E^b Fm⁷ Gm⁷

13 N.C.
solo break

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 80 Samba

11 $\frac{2}{2}$ Em⁷ Eb⁷ Dm⁹ Db⁷

5 Gsus⁴ Gm⁷ G^{b7} Fmaj⁷ B^{b9} C⁶

9 N.C.
solo break-----

13 Eb D⁷ Dbmaj⁷ C⁶ Em⁷ :||