

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

♩ = 140

f *p*

5

f *p*

Practice playback 2

♩ = 90

f *p*

5

p *p*

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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 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.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 120 **Pop**

Musical notation for Practice improvisation 1, Pop style, tempo 120. The piece is in 4/4 time. The chord progression is Am, C, Em, Em. The notation shows the piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The Am chord is in the bass clef, while the other chords are in the treble clef.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 77 **Ballad**

Musical notation for Practice improvisation 2, Ballad style, tempo 77. The piece is in 4/4 time. The chord progression is C, G, Am, G. The notation shows the piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The C chord is in the bass clef, while the other chords are in the treble clef.