

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 or four-bar phrases: 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:

- 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.

Practice playback 1

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is for a piece in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The first system (measures 1-4) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic in the treble staff and a piano (*p*) dynamic in the bass staff. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody and bass line. The third system (measures 9-12) ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic in the treble staff. The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 54

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The music is written for piano. The first staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The second staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with quarter notes. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Measures 5-8 of the piece. The first staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The second staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with quarter notes. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). A crescendo hairpin is present in measure 8.

Measures 9-12 of the piece. The first staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The second staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with quarter notes. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A crescendo hairpin is present in measure 12.

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:

- First time – for practice
- Second time – for assessment.

Here are some improvising charts for practice.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 80 **Reggae**

Practice improvisation 1 is a chord chart for Reggae in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 80 beats per minute. The chart consists of two lines of five measures each. The first line contains the chords Cm, Fm, Gm, Cm, and Fm. The second line contains the chords Dm7, A^b, Fm7, G7, and Cm. The chart is marked with a double bar line at the end of the second line and a repeat sign at the end of the first line.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 44 **R'n'B**

Practice improvisation 2 is a chord chart for R'n'B in 6/8 time, with a tempo of 44 beats per minute. The chart consists of two lines of five measures each. The first line contains the chords A, F[#]m, E, and Bm7. The second line contains the chords F[#]m, E, Bm, D, and A. The chart is marked with a double bar line at the end of the second line and a repeat sign at the end of the first line.