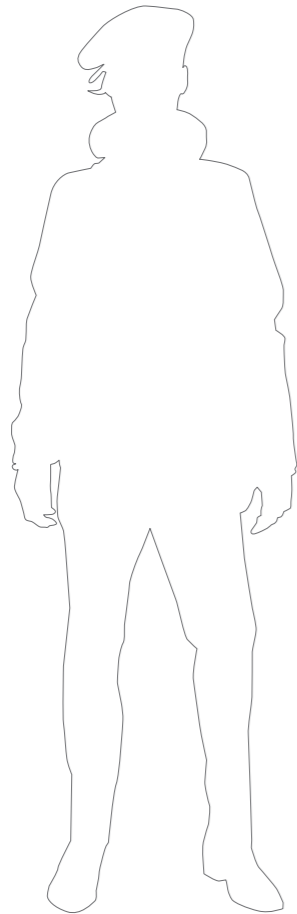


SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE



Personal qualities and skills required for work can be the same across many different areas of work, for example, you need to be good at turning up on time to be a performer, recording engineer or tour manager. This is often MORE important than just being good at your job!

Unless you are absolutely certain which field you want to go in, think carefully about your skills, personality, strengths and weaknesses. Ask yourself honestly whether you want to pursue a full time career as a musician or DJ, or whether you may be better suited to a related career in music. If you don't know the answers yet, these workbooks should hopefully help you to find out.

example answer to project question 2

A SESSION MUSICIAN NEEDS THE FOLLOWING SKILLS and KNOWLEDGE

Communication – reading and writing. Basic reading and writing skills.

Communication – speaking. Needs to be able to communicate well with lots of different people.

Numeracy skills. Works freelance, so needs to be able to manage money.

Musical skills. Usually need to have a combination of music theory and sight reading skills, expert performance skills in a number of different styles and advanced technical skills.

Technology skills. Some understanding of the recording process, including multitracking, overdubs and 'takes'. Information technology skills are not essential, but any freelance worker needs basic IT literacy.

Creative skills. May need to be able to improvise and rearrange existing music parts.

Marketing skills. Works freelance, and so gets work through contacts with other people. A basic understanding of marketing is important in making and impressing new contacts.

Business skills. Works freelance, so needs to be able to understand the financial and legal implications of being self employed.

Health and Safety - Awareness of health and safety issues, particularly with equipment and live music venues.

A SESSION MUSICIAN NEEDS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL QUALITIES

Reliable – 100% reliability is essential. If you can't turn up on time, you lose the job.

Confident – Must be a confident performer and be at ease with others.

Calm under pressure – Must be able to deliver the goods!

Organised – Must be able to keep your professional life organised.

Team Player – Needs to appreciate the dynamics of working in a team of other musicians who can have different opinions.

Careful – Attention to detail is important. You need to be passionate and enthusiastic about what you do

A SESSION MUSICIAN NEEDS THE FOLLOWING EXPERIENCE

Some work history involving music performance.
Previous experience of studio or live performance.
Experience of playing with many types of musicians and musical styles.
Projects which have involved other musicians.

A SESSION MUSICIAN NEEDS THE FOLLOWING TRAINING and QUALIFICATIONS

Not necessarily required. However, it is likely that a session musician will have studied their instrument for a number of years and often taken formal qualifications. (For example Grade 6 Guitar, or a degree in Music)

A SESSION MUSICIAN NEEDS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES and LIFESTYLE ISSUES

Location
Live session work is likely to involve touring and constant travel, sometimes abroad. Studio session work is usually based in urban areas, particularly London and other large cities.

Transport
Depending on whether you are touring or studio based, you may have to transport yourself and your equipment around safely.

Health
If you are sick, you don't get paid. Touring can take its toll on your body, due to the late nights, constant travelling and variable diet.

Flexibility in hours worked
Session musicians rarely make enough money without doing other work, so you need to be able to fit in your other jobs.

Commitments
If you are touring and constantly away from home, this may affect your family, relationships or responsibilities.