



Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Practice Chanter

SCQF level 2

Unit Code: F7NT 08

40 hour Unit

What are the Scottish Bagpipe Qualifications?

These are Scotland's Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (PDQB) standards based on the College of Piping and National Piping Centre Tutor Books and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Structured Learning Manuals 1-3. They have been developed as an introduction to the finger movements and embellishments required to play the Scottish Bagpipe. The Scottish Bagpipe is an ancient instrument requiring a variety of performance techniques. To be able to play the Scottish Bagpipe competently an understanding of musical theory, tuning, rhythm, melody, harmony, and musical ornamentation is essential.

The Bagpipe is synonymous with Pipe Bands and through diligent study and practice you will achieve a standard of playing which allows you to play individually or as part of a Pipe Band.

What is this Unit about?

This Unit will give you an understanding of the main theoretical concepts that form the foundations of music generally but relate to the Bagpipes specifically. It will provide you with music theory knowledge associated with the Scottish Bagpipe. There are three study areas as follows:

Study area 1 Show an understanding of music notation.

Study area 2 Write music in Simple Time.

Study area 3 Show an understanding of Practice Chanter maintenance.

If there is anything in this Unit you don't understand, ask your tutor to explain it to you.

What should I know or be able to do before I start?

You should have a generally secure level of knowledge and understanding of musical theory as it relates to the Scottish Bagpipe to allow you to demonstrate that you have achieved the learning requirements of this Unit. Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the assessment centre.

What do I need to do?

When you are using music notation

You will write out the answer to questions about notation, Clefs and Bar Lines.

When you are writing music in Simple Time

You will write out accurate music notation by copying four bars of a tune in 2/4 Time Signature from Bagpipe music provided by the Assessor.

When you show you understand Practice Chanter maintenance

You will describe how to dismantle, clean and dry as well as correctly hemp the Practice Chanter.

How do I get this Unit?

You will need to show that you have developed and gained all the skills required in the Unit. Each study area may be assessed individually; but all areas may also be combined in a single assessment event.

All exercise requirements are marked and a pass or fail is awarded for the Unit.

Music notation

You must write out the answer to questions about aspects of music theory as listed below. You must answer questions on:

- ◆ Music notation and relative note values
- ◆ Clefs and Bar Lines
- ◆ Dotted and Cut Notes

Writing music in Simple Time

You must write on manuscript paper four bars of a tune with a 2/4 Time Signature by copying from set music provided by the Assessor.

You must:

- ◆ Write music notation clearly
- ◆ Use correct Clefs and Bar Lines when writing notation
- ◆ Write Dotted and Cut Notes

Practice Chanter maintenance

You must show that you can describe in writing the practical exercises detailed below.

You must describe how to:

- ◆ Dismantle the Practice Chanter
- ◆ Clean and dry the Practice Chanter
- ◆ Correctly hemp the Practice Chanter

What might this involve?

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Writing out Bagpipe music notation on the Stave using a Clef and a Time Signature
- ◆ Answering sample questions concerning Practice Chanter maintenance

What can I do next?

You could move on to:

Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Practice Chanter at SCQF level 3

Guidance for tutors

This Unit is intended to introduce learners to the music theory and rudiments of Scottish Bagpipe music. There are three areas of study covering demonstrating an understanding of music notation, writing Bagpipe music in Simple Time as well as demonstrating an understanding of Practice Chanter maintenance.

Tutors and instructors will find comprehensive supporting material in relevant publications such as the College of Piping and National Piping Centre Tutor Books, the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Structured Learning Manuals 1-3 or similar learning materials available from other Piping or Pipe Band organisations. Assistance is also available from the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board in the form of sample test papers covering aspects of the Scottish Bagpipe Theory (Practice Chanter) assessment. These are available for use as part of instructional programmes or for candidates who wish to take the assessments direct.

This Unit may form part of a Group Award in, for example traditional music, but can be offered on a standalone basis. The Unit may be delivered in a variety of ways from direct teaching/training courses, or practical workshop sessions. It may also be possible to deliver using computer-based distance learning programmes for personal study.

Assessment will follow procedures approved by the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board. These procedures provide sample test papers in theory and practical aspects of the assessments, which are available for use as part of instructional programmes or for candidates who wish to take the assessments direct.

All assessment must be carried out in front of an approved Assessor either as individual assessments or combined in a single assessment event in a realistic time.

An Assessment Support Pack has been produced for this Unit exemplifying assessment methods and to ensure standards are maintained. This pack includes example Assessor observation checklists.

Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required.

Further advice can be found in SQA's web pages (www.sqa.org.uk)



Administrative information

Credit value

1 credit(s) at (SQA level 2) (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 2)

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Helpdesk: 0845 279 1000
Fax: 0845 213 5000
E-mail: customer@sqa.org.uk
Website: www.sqa.org.uk

Optima Building
58 Robertson Street
Glasgow
G2 8QD

Ironmills Road
Dalkeith
Midlothian

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