



**Scottish Bagpipe Theory**

**SCQF level 8**

**Unit Code: FP17 35**

**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 to the Bagpipes specifically. It will provide you with knowledge of music theory associated with the Scottish Bagpipe as well as historical aspects of the instrument. If you do not hold a Level 5 Certificate you will be required to answer all Bagpipe maintenance questions in Scottish Bagpipe Music Theory 5. There are four other study areas as follows:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Study area 1 | Write music for different tune types.  |
| Study area 2 | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Piobaireachd construction and classification. |
| Study area 3 | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Piobaireachd movements and notation.          |
| Study area 4 | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the history of Piping.                        |

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 secure knowledge and understanding of musical theory generally but ideally as it relates to the Scottish Bagpipe to allow you to demonstrate that you have achieved the learning requirements of this Unit. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of the Scottish Bagpipe Music Theory Certificate SCQF Level 7, Institute of Piping 5 Certificate, RSPBA Advanced Certificate or PDQB Piping 5 Certificate. Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the assessment centre.

## **What do I need to do?**

You will be required to show your understanding and knowledge of different tune types, Piobaireachd construction and classification, Piobaireachd movements and notation, and the history of Piping.

### **When you write music for different tune types**

You will write music for a variety of different tune types.

### **When you show an understanding of Piobaireachd construction and classification**

You will name and explain different categories of Piobaireachd.

### **When you are notating Piobaireachd movements**

You will notate all Piobaireachd movements, the notes of Scales in Nether Lorn Canntaireachd and translate a passage of Piobaireachd staff notation into Nether Lorn Canntaireachd.

### **When you show an understanding of the history of Piping**

You will write an essay to show your understanding of a chosen subject relating to Piping history, commenting on its influence and relevance to Piping.

## **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.

### **Writing music for different tune types**

You must write from memory four parts of one of the following competition tune types:

- ◆ Competition March
- ◆ Competition Strathspey
- ◆ Competition Reel
- ◆ Competition Hornpipe
- ◆ Competition Jig

You must also write four bars of a:

- ◆ Dithis Doubling
- ◆ Suibhal Doubling
- ◆ Crunluath Breabach or Fosgailte Doubling
- ◆ Crunluath a Mach

All movements must be written out in full with no abbreviations.

### **Piobaireachd construction and classification**

You must name the seven categories of phrase construction used in Piobaireachd specified below and explain what can be interpreted from the Tune Title in Piobaireachd classification and the meaning of 'Classification by Variation'.

- ◆ Primary
- ◆ Secondary
- ◆ Tertiary Type A
- ◆ Tertiary Type B
- ◆ Supplementary Type A
- ◆ Supplementary Type B
- ◆ Irregular

### **Piobaireachd movements and notation**

You must provide written evidence to demonstrate your knowledge by:

- ◆ Writing out in notation all Piobaireachd movements.
- ◆ Writing out in Nether Lorn Canntaireachd the notes of the following scales:
  - Plain
  - G Gracenote
  - E Gracenote
  - D Gracenote
- ◆ Translating a passage of Piobaireachd staff notation into Nether Lorn Canntaireachd.

### **History of Piping**

You must write an essay on one subject selected from the following list, commenting on their influence and relevance to Piping:

- ◆ The MacCrimmons of Skye
- ◆ The MacKays of Gairloch/Rassay
- ◆ The MacArthurs
- ◆ The Camerons

- ◆ The MacPhersons
- ◆ The MacLennans
- ◆ The Rankins
- ◆ The MacIntyres
- ◆ The Descent of Piping knowledge and tuition to the present day

## **What might this involve?**

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Practising writing music for different tune types and Piobaireachd movements
- ◆ Practise answering questions on Piobaireachd construction and classification
- ◆ Study Pipe Band and Bagpipe history

## **What can I do next?**

You could move on to:

The BA (Scottish Music — Piping)

## Guidance for tutors

This Unit is intended to introduce learners to the music theory and rudiments of Scottish Bagpipe music. There are four areas of study covering writing music for different tune types, identifying Piobaireachd construction and classification, notating Piobaireachd movements, and demonstrating an understanding of the history of Piping.

Tutors and instructors will find comprehensive supporting material in relevant publications such as the College of Piping and National Piping Centre Tutor Books and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Structured Learning Manuals 1-3 or similar learning materials available from the Piobaireachd Society or 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 (Bagpipes) 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\*\*](http://www.sqa.org.uk))



## Administrative information

### Credit value

1 credit(s) at (SQA level 8) (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

**Unit code:** FP17 35  
**Superclass:** LF  
**Publication date:** August 2009  
**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority  
**Version:** 01

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