



Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Bagpipes

SCQF level 4

Unit Code: F7P2 10

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 across Scotland being adopted. 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 four study areas as follows:

- Study area 1 Show an understanding of Bagpipe movements (Doublings and Embellishments).
- Study area 2 Show an understanding of music notation.
- Study area 3 Write music in Simple Time.
- Study area 4 Show an understanding of Bagpipe 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. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of Scottish Bagpipe Music Theory Certificate SCQF level 3, Institute of Piping 1 Certificate, RSPBA Elementary Certificate or PDQB Piping 1 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 read and write standard notation. Part of the process will involve written and listening exercises.

When you are writing Bagpipe movements

You will write out Bagpipe movements.

When you are using music notation

You will write the answer to questions about Bagpipe music notation.

When you are writing music in Simple Time

You will write out accurate music notation from memory for one part (eight bars) of a tune in Simple Time.

When you show you understand Bagpipe maintenance

You will describe how to carry out various maintenance activities on the Bagpipes.

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.

Bagpipe movements (Doublings and Embellishments)

You must write out, in music notation, all movements and embellishments as listed below.

You must answer questions on:

- ◆ All Doublings (Low G to High A), from any note of the Scale
- ◆ Throw on D from each note of the Scale
- ◆ Grips (including Grips with a B Gracenote)
- ◆ Birl and Birl with a G Gracenote from each note of the Scale
- ◆ Taorluaths to Low A from each note of the Scale (including Taorluaths from D with a B Gracenote)
- ◆ Tachums
- ◆ C Doublings to Low A, and B Doublings to Low G with E Gracenote as used in Strathspey playing (Round movement)
- ◆ Basic monotone exercises in Simple and Compound Time

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
- ◆ Time Signatures
- ◆ Rhythmic patterns in Simple Time

Writing music in Simple Time

You must write music notation, from memory, for one part (eight bars) of a tune in Simple Time, the tune to be selected by you from those submitted for your practical test.

You must:

- ◆ Write music notation clearly
- ◆ Use correct Clefs and Bar Lines
- ◆ Use correct Time Signatures
- ◆ Write rhythms in Simple Time

Bagpipe maintenance

You must describe the following practical exercises:

- ◆ Name all the parts of the Bagpipe
- ◆ How to properly replace and remove the Bagpipe Chanter
- ◆ How to properly replace and remove the Drones
- ◆ Correct hemping/sealing of pipe joints
- ◆ How to correctly tie on and space the Drone cords

What might this involve?

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Writing out answers concerning music notation, Bagpipe movements and music notation on the Stave using a Clef and a Time Signature in Simple Time.
- ◆ Answering sample questions concerning Bagpipe maintenance.

What can I do next?

You could move on to:

Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Bagpipes at SCQF Level 5

Guidance for tutors

This Unit is intended to introduce learners to the music theory as related to Scottish Bagpipe music. There are four areas of study covering demonstrating an understanding of Bagpipe movements (Doublings and Embellishments), demonstrating an understanding of music notation, writing music in Simple Time as well demonstrating an understanding of Bagpipe 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 (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 examination procedures approved by the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board. These procedures provide sample test papers in theory and practical aspects of the assessment, 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 4) (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4)

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