



**Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Practice Chanter**

**SCQF level 2**

**Unit Code: F7NS 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?**

In this Unit you will learn basic practical skills to build technical competence on the practice chanter. There are three study areas where as follows:

Study area 1 Perform Piping exercises on the Practice Chanter.

Study area 2 Perform monotone exercises to show your understanding of rhythm.

Study area 3 Perform a programme of Bagpipe music on the Practice Chanter.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to perform exercises and music on the Practice Chanter, displaying the correct basic technique.

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 will need to have an aptitude for playing music on the Practice Chanter to allow you to develop the skills to the level required by this Unit.

Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the examination centre.

## What do I need to do?

You will be required to perform exercises and play Bagpipe music on the Practice Chanter as well as clap or tap out monotone exercises. The work of this Unit involves practical exercises.

### Practising exercises

You will play exercises on the Practice Chanter to the required level. Exercises will include the scale, Gracenotes, Strikes, the Throw and Doublings.

### When you are using monotone exercises

You will tap or clap out rhythms in simple time.

### When you are performing

You will play Bagpipe tunes on the Practice Chanter in simple time showing performance skill and technique.

## How do I get this Unit?

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

Each exercise and component of each piece is marked and a pass or fail is awarded for the Unit.

## What might this involve?

### Practising exercises

You must play on the Practice Chanter all the following exercises:

- ◆ The scale
- ◆ The scale to F with a G Gracenote, to C with a D Gracenote and to D with a E Gracenote
- ◆ GDE Gracenote groupings
- ◆ All strikes
- ◆ Thumb or high A Gracenotes
- ◆ The throw on D from low A
- ◆ Doublings on high A, high G, F, E, D, C and B from low A

## **Monotone exercises**

You must tap or clap out the rhythm of four monotone exercises selected by the examiner.

You must:

- ◆ Tap or clap out rhythms with accurate note values
- ◆ Tap or clap out rhythms with accurate rests
- ◆ Tap or clap out rhythms in simple time signatures — 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4

## **Performing on the Practice Chanter**

You must show musical skills on the Practice Chanter by playing two tunes in simple time from memory. The tunes must be played in accordance with the written score presented to the examiner. The tunes must incorporate some of the embellishments from the exercise section of this Unit. The examiner must observe and grade all practical performances.

The performance of each tune will be assessed against the following criteria:

- 1 Rhythm
- 2 Tempo
- 3 Technique
- 4 Melody/musical expression
- 5 Mistakes/faults

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

You could move on to:

Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance Practice Chanter at SCQF level 3

Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance Bagpipes at SCQF level 4

## Guidance for tutors

This Unit is intended to introduce learners to the rudiments of Scottish Bagpipe music. There are three areas of study covering piping exercises, demonstrating an understanding of rhythm using monotone exercises and performing a programme of Bagpipe music on the Practice Chanter.

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 Solo Performance (Practice Chanter) examination. These are available for use as part of instructional programmes or for candidates who wish to take the examinations 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 examinations, which are available for use as part of instructional programmes or for candidates who wish to, take the examinations direct.

All assessment must be carried out in front of an approved examiner either as individual assessments or combined in a single assessment event/performance.

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 on our website **[www.sqa.org.uk](http://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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