



Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory

SCQF level 4

Unit Code: F7NN 10

40 hour Unit

What are the Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Qualifications?

These are Scotland's Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (PDQB) standards, based on the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Structured Learning Manuals 1-3. They have been developed as an introduction to the music theory associated with Scottish Pipe Band Drumming.

The Scottish Pipe Band consists of a section of Pipers, Snare Drummers (generally referred to as 'Side Drummers'), Tenor Drummers and a Bass Drummer. The entire Drum section is known collectively as the Drum Corps. The Tenor Drummers and Bass Drummer are referred to collectively as the Bass Section. The Pipe Band follows the direction of the Pipe Major although when on parade a Drum Major may lead the Pipe Band.

The Drum Corps is the percussion section of the Pipe Band, which requires a variety of performance techniques. To play the instruments competently an understanding of musical theory; rhythm, melody and harmony; instrument tuning; and musical ornamentation is also essential.

What is this Unit about?

This Unit will give you a basic understanding of music theory generally but relating to Scottish Pipe Band Drumming specifically. It will also provide you with knowledge of maintenance associated with Pipe Band Drums. There are three study areas as follows:

- Study area 1 Show a basic understanding of music notation.
- Study area 2 Write Drum music in Simple Time.
- Study area 3 Show a basic knowledge of Snare Drum care and 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 level of generally secure knowledge and understanding of musical theory as it relates to Pipe Band Drumming, allowing you to demonstrate that you have achieved the learning requirements of this Unit. Advance study will be required from relevant manuals such as the RSPBA Structured Learning Manual 1 or other similar learning materials. 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 Drum notation as well as describe how to undertake various Drum maintenance operations. The work of this Unit involves written exercises.

When you are showing a basic understanding of music notation

You will write out the answer to questions about aspects of music theory.

When you are writing Drum music in Simple Time

You will write music notation in Simple Time from memory.

When you are showing that you understand Snare Drum care and maintenance

You will identify the parts and functions of the Snare Drum and describe how to maintain it.

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:

- ◆ The Great Staff, Short Staff and Clefs.
- ◆ Note values and rests.
- ◆ Simple and compound time.
- ◆ Time signatures.
- ◆ Embellishments.

Writing Drum music in Simple Time

You must write one part (eight bars) of drum music, from memory of a 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 in simple time, showing music notation clearly and using correct clef and bar lines.

Snare Drum care and maintenance

You must show that you can describe, in writing, the following:

- ◆ Different parts and functions of a Snare Drum
- ◆ How to maintain a Snare Drum

What might this involve?

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Practice exercises regarding Drum music notation
- ◆ Writing out music notation on the Stave using a Clef and a Time Signature for Drums
- ◆ Answering sample questions concerning Snare Drum maintenance

What can I do next?

You could move on to:

Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Theory at SCQF level 5

Guidance for tutors

This Unit is intended to introduce learners to the main theoretical concepts that form the foundations of music generally but to the Pipe Band Snare Drum specifically. There are three areas of study covering demonstrating an understanding of music notation, writing Drum music in Simple Time as well as demonstrating an understanding of Snare Drum care and maintenance.

Tutors and instructors will find comprehensive supporting material in relevant publications such as 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 Pipe Band Snare Drumming Music Theory examination. 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 4) (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4)

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