



**Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance**

**SCQF level 7**

**Unit Code: F7NV 34**

**80 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 and competence demands a variety of performance techniques. To be able to play a 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 develop practical skills to be technically competent on the Practice Chanter and Bagpipes to an advanced level of proficiency. There are five study areas as follows:

- Study area 1     Demonstrate sight-reading competence of Bagpipe music using the Practice Chanter.
- Study area 2     Perform a programme of light music (Ceol Beag) on the Bagpipe.
- Study area 3     Perform a programme of Piobaireachd (Ceol Mor) on the Bagpipe.
- Study area 4     Tune the Bagpipes accurately.
- Study area 5     Display competence in marching and deportment.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to perform exercises and music as a solo piper, displaying correct 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 a level of generally secure technique on Bagpipes to allow you to develop the skills to the level required by this Unit. These skills may be demonstrated by the achievement of the Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance Certificate SCQF level 6, Institute of Piping level 4 Certificate, RSPBA Advanced Certificate or PDQB Piping level 4 Certificate.

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

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

You will be required to sight-reading Bagpipe music, tune Bagpipes, play Bagpipe music, and show marching and deportment skill. The work of this Unit involves practical exercises.

### **When you sight-read Bagpipe music using the Practice Chanter**

You will show that you can accurately sight-read and play Bagpipe music notation with embellishments in Simple and compound time.

### **When you perform a programme of light music (Ceol Beag) on the Bagpipe**

You will play light music tunes on the Bagpipe and show performance skill and technique. In your performance you will play Bagpipe music according to time signatures and play notation accurately.

### **When you perform a programme of Piobaireachd (Ceol Mor) on the Bagpipe**

You will play an entire Piobaireachd on the Bagpipe showing accurate performance skill and technique.

### **When you are tuning Bagpipes**

You will show that you can accurately tune the Chanter and Drones of the Bagpipes, and maintain tonal quality as well as Chanter and Drone balance.

### **When you are showing marching and deportment skill**

You will march in time displaying correct posture and bearing, with correct carriage of 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. The examiner must observe and assess all practical performances. Each 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.

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### **When you sight-read Bagpipe music using the Practice Chanter**

You will show that you can accurately sight-read and play Bagpipe music notation with embellishments in Simple and compound time.

### **When you perform a programme of light music (Ceol Beag) on the Bagpipe**

You will play light music tunes on the Bagpipe and show performance skill and technique. In your performance you will play Bagpipe music according to time signatures and play notation accurately.

### **When you perform a programme of Piobaireachd (Ceol Mor) on the Bagpipe**

You will play an entire Piobaireachd on the Bagpipe showing accurate performance skill and technique.

### **When you are tuning Bagpipes**

You will show that you can accurately tune the Chanter and Drones of the Bagpipes, and maintain tonal quality as well as Chanter and Drone balance.

### **When you are showing marching and deportment skill**

You will march in time displaying correct posture and bearing, with correct carriage of the Bagpipes.

## **What might this involve?**

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Practice sight-reading of Bagpipe music
- ◆ Practice and playing light music Bagpipe tunes and Piobaireachd
- ◆ Practice tuning Bagpipes
- ◆ Practice marching and deportment

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

You could move on to:

Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance at SCQF level 8

## Guidance for tutors

This Unit is intended for learners who wish to develop a high level of proficiency on the Practice Chanter and Bagpipes and extend their understanding of Scottish Bagpipe music. There are five areas of study covering demonstrating Bagpipe music sight-reading skills, demonstrating an understanding of rhythm using monotones, performing a programme of Bagpipe music including Piobaireachd, tuning of Bagpipes, and demonstrating skills in marching and deportment. On completion of the Unit the learner should be able to perform exercises and Bagpipe music as a solo piper, displaying correct technique.

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 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 Solo Performance 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 in SQA's web pages ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk))



## Administrative information

### Credit value

2 credit(s) at (SQA level 7) (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

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