



**Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance**

**SCQF level 8**

**Unit Code: F7NW 35**

**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 four study areas as follows:

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

On completion of the Unit you should be able to perform a programme of 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 the 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 7, Institute of Piping Level 5 Certificate, RSPBA Advanced Certificate or PDQB Piping Level 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 tune Bagpipes, play Bagpipe music, and show marching and deportment skill. The work of this Unit involves practical exercises.

### **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 to a high level of 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 accurately tuning Bagpipes**

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

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

You will march in time displaying correct posture and bearing, and 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 Assessor must observe and assess all 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.

### **Perform a programme of light music (Ceol Beag) on the Bagpipe**

You must submit six tunes of each of the following categories for performance:

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

You must show a high level of musical competence by playing on the Bagpipes a minimum of four parts of two tunes selected by the Assessor in each category.

You are expected to tune your own Drones to a well-balanced Chanter and be capable of blowing a steady tone. All pieces should be played from memory. The tunes must be played in accordance with the written score presented to the Assessor. The Assessor must observe and assess all performances.

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

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

### **Perform a programme of Piobaireachd (Ceol Mor) on the Bagpipe**

You must submit six Piobaireachds for performance. The selection should include the following varieties of Crunluath:

- ◆ Standard Crunluath
- ◆ Crunluath Breabach
- ◆ Crunluath Fosgailte
- ◆ Crunluath a Mach

You must show a high level of musical competence by playing on the Bagpipes one Piobaireachd in its entirety selected by the Assessor from the six submitted. At the Assessor's discretion you may be asked to play additional tunes or parts from those submitted. The Assessor must observe and assess all performances.

The Piobaireachd performance will be assessed against the following criteria:

- 1 Rhythm and Phrasing
- 2 Tempo
- 3 Technique
- 4 Tone
- 5 Melody/musical expression
- 6 Mistakes/faults

## **Tuning skills**

As part of your light music and Piobaireachd performance you must tune the Bagpipes.

You must:

- ◆ Show Chanter and Drone tuning technique
- ◆ Show tonal quality
- ◆ Maintain Chanter and Drone balance

## **Marching and deportment**

You must march with correct posture and bearing.

You must:

- ◆ Display correct posture and bearing
- ◆ March in time
- ◆ Display correct carriage of the Bagpipes

## **What might this involve?**

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Practice and playing light music Bagpipe tunes and Piobaireachd
- ◆ Practice tuning Bagpipes
- ◆ Practice marching

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

You could move on to:

The BA (Scottish Music — Piping)

## 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 four areas of study covering performing a programme of light music and Piobaireachd on the Bagpipes, tuning Bagpipes, and demonstrating skills in marching and deportment. On completion of the Unit the learner should be able to perform exercises and 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 Tutors Books, the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Structured Learning Manuals 1-3 or similar learning materials available from the Piobaireachd Society and 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 SCQF level 6 assessments. 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/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 8) (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

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