



# Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Qualifications



# Background

For many people the first idea that comes to mind when they hear the name Scotland is the solo piper and the pipe band. SOA's new National Progression Awards (NPAs) and Professional Development Awards (PDAs) in Scottish Bagpipes and Pipe Band Drumming cover the skills and knowledge pipers and drummers need for performing on Scottish Bagpipes or Scottish Pipe Band Drums.

The awards have been developed by SOA in partnership with the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (PDQB). They are based on National Standards of design, teaching, assessment and certification. They will enable a consistent approach to the study of Scottish Bagpipes and/or Scottish Pipe Band Drumming in Scotland and internationally, and will help maintain Scotland's central position of setting and maintaining standards in this form of traditional music.

Entry to the NPA and PDA qualifications is at the discretion of the delivering centre or organisation. Beginners would enter the NPA (SCQF level 2) and advance through each level to SCQF level 6. For pipers there is the opportunity to progress to PDAs in Scottish Bagpipes (SCQF levels 7 and 8).



## NPA structure

There are six levels in Piping and four levels in Pipe Band Drumming.  
All levels incorporate both Solo Performance and Theory.

Award title	SCQF level	Units	SCQF credit points	SOA credit value
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	2	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Practice Chanter	6	1
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Practice Chanter	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	3	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Practice Chanter	6	1
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Practice Chanter	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	4	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	5	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	6	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1

Award title	SCQF level	Units	SCQF credit points	SOA credit value
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	3	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	6	1
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	4	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	12	2
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	5	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	12	2
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	6	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	12	2
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1

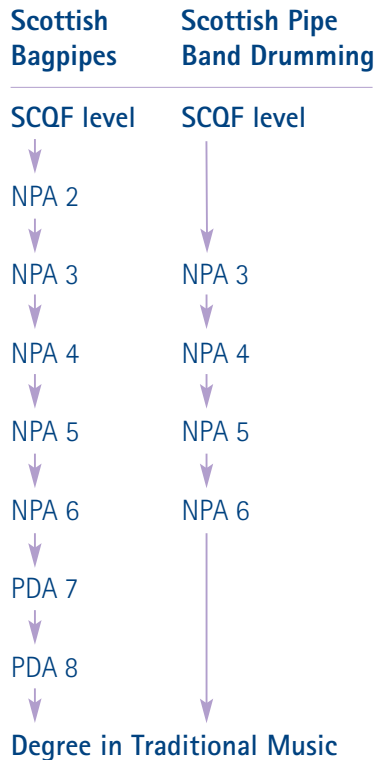
## PDA structure

There are two levels in Piping incorporating both Solo Performance and Theory.

Award title	SCQF level	Units	SCQF credit points	SOA credit value
PDA Scottish Bagpipes	7	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1
PDA Scottish Bagpipes	8	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1

'For pipers there is the opportunity to progress to PDAs in Scottish Bagpipes (SCQF levels 7 and 8)!

The diagram shows the conventional progression route through the qualifications from SCQF level 2 to 8 and to degree:





## Further information

For more information about the NPA or the PDA in Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Band Drumming, please contact our qualifications team on 0845 213 5433.



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AD5253 November 2009