



**Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes**

**SCQF level 4**

**Unit Code: F7P1 10**

**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 requiring 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 learn practical skills to build technical competence on the Practice Chanter and Bagpipes. There are three study areas as below:

- 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 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 be able to show that you have a basic level of Bagpipe technique 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 (Practice Chanter) Certificate SCQF level 3, Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance (Practice Chanter) Certificate, Institute of Piping 1 Certificate, RSPBA Elementary Certificate or PDQB Piping 1 Certificate. Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the assessment centre.

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

### **When you are showing practising skills**

You will play exercises on the Practice Chanter to the required level. Exercises will include Doublings, the Throw on D, Grips, Birl and Birl with G Gracenote, Gracenotes, Taorluaths and Tachums.

### **When you are using monotone exercises**

You will tap or clap out rhythms in Simple and Compound Time.

### **When you are performing a programme of Bagpipe music**

You will play Bagpipe tunes in different Time Signatures and with accurate notation, to show 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 Assessor 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.

### **Practising exercises**

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

- ◆ All Doublings (Low G to High A), from any note of the Scale
- ◆ The Throw on D from each note of the Scale
- ◆ Grips (including Grips with a B Gracenote)
- ◆ The Birl and Birl with a G Gracenote from each note of the Scale
- ◆ Taorluaths to Low A from each note of the Scale (including Taorluaths from D with a B Gracenote)
- ◆ Tachums
- ◆ C Doublings to Low A, and B Doublings to Low G with E Gracenote as used in Strathspey playing (round movement)

## **Monotone exercise skills**

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

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 — 2/4 and 3/4; and Compound Time — 6/8, 9/8

## **Performing a programme of Bagpipe music**

You must show musical skills by selecting and playing from memory on the Bagpipes two parts of each of a Slow Air, 3/4 or 4/4 March, 6/8 or 9/8 March; Strathspey and Reel. The tunes must be played in accordance with the written score presented to the Assessor. The tunes must incorporate some of the embellishments from the exercise section of this Unit. The Assessor 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 Blowing
- 5 Melody/musical expression
- 6 Mistakes/faults

## **What might this involve?**

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Practising Scales
- ◆ Practising embellishments
- ◆ Tapping or clapping out rhythms
- ◆ Playing Bagpipe music

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

You could move on to:

Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes at SCQF level 5

## 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.

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 (Bagpipe) assessment. 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 4) (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** F7P1 10  
**Superclass:** LH  
**Publication date:** September 2009  
**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority  
**Version:** 01

**Helpdesk:** 0845 279 1000  
**Fax:** 0845 213 5000  
**E-mail:** [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)

Optima Building  
58 Robertson Street  
Glasgow  
G2 8QD

Ironmills Road  
Dalkeith  
Midlothian

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