



**Arrangements for:  
Professional Development Award  
(PDA) in Scottish Bagpipe  
Qualifications  
at SCQF level 7**

**Group Award Code: G9JG 47**

**and**

**at SCQF level 8**

**Group Award Code: G9JH 48**

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## **Acknowledgement**

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (PDQB) (representing the College of Piping, National Piping Centre, Piobaireachd Society, Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming and Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association) has made to the development of the Scottish Bagpipe and Scottish Pipe Band Drumming qualifications.

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## History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification, and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below.

Version number	Description	Date	Authorised by

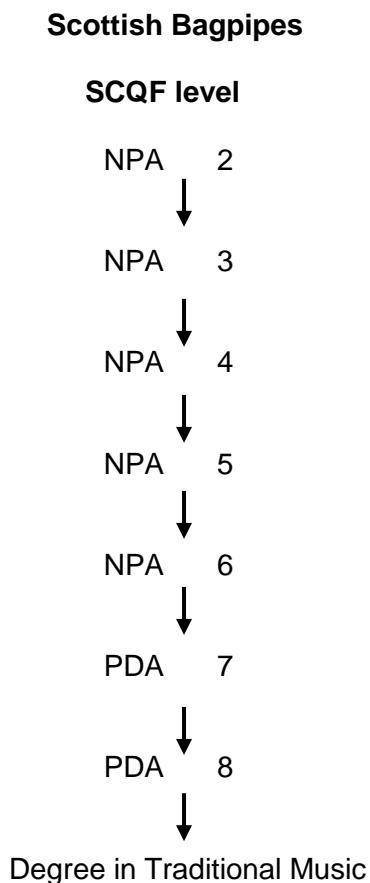
## **1 Introduction**

This is the combined Arrangements Document for the new Professional Development Awards in Scottish Bagpipe Theory and Solo Performance qualifications at SCQF levels 7 and 8 that were validated in February 2009. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the structure, and guidance on delivery.

The Group Award relates to skills and knowledge required for candidates who wish to perform on Scottish Bagpipe. The awards have been developed by SQA in partnership with the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (PDQB).

### **Progression routes**

Entry to the PDA qualifications is at the discretion of the delivering centre. However, it is expected that the candidate would enter the level 7 qualifications having first progressed through the NPA qualifications from SCQF level 2 to level 6 as follows:



**Diagram 1**

## **2 Rationale for the development of the awards**

Piping and Pipe Band Music has historical and important place in Scottish culture and are a central component of Scottish Traditional Music. A vast range of organisations across the world have an interest in Piping and Pipe Band Music but Scotland has long been the universally accepted centre to which other countries look for standards and guidance.

There five main organisations, all based in Scotland, which set standards and offer education programmes for Piping and/or Pipe Bands within the UK and internationally (Appendix 2).

Until this development graded Piping and Pipe Band Drumming qualifications were offered through the PDQB, which is the appointed and designated representative of the above organisations. Those qualifications were delivered, examined and overseen by these organisations, and not generally within mainstream education.

These Group Awards have been developed to form a single structure of certificated qualifications in Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Band Drumming based on national standards of design, teaching, assessment and certification. They should encourage a consistent approach to uptake by organisations and individuals within the United Kingdom and in other countries and help maintain Scotland's central position of setting and maintaining standards in this form of traditional music.

These PDA's in Bagpiping will provide:

- ◆ common mandatory elements of study
- ◆ a coherent approach within a national framework (see Diagram 1)
- ◆ the opportunity to preserve and build upon existing good practice
- ◆ compatibility of progression (see Diagram 1)
- ◆ Piping and Drumming Awards SCQF recognition
- ◆ preparation for further study or a possible indicator of currency for future employment
- ◆ a progression route to higher level qualifications such as higher education
- ◆ a focus on the development of candidates' practical skills, and knowledge and understanding which underpins practical performance

Involvement in Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Bands also offers a means of achieving skills for life, skills for learning and skills for work. They can learn the skills of playing a particular type of musical instrument and receive instruction in different aspects of musical theory and musicianship to enhance their proficiency. Candidates will learn discipline and dress sense. They will also develop competitiveness and the ability and confidence to perform to a high standard in front of large audiences. There are also opportunities to develop skills candidates will need throughout their working life such as leadership and management, team working, communication, and continuous learning. They will broaden their horizons because of the opportunities afforded by the worldwide phenomenon that is the Piping and Pipe Band movement.

### **3 Aims of the awards**

The principal aim of the awards is to harmonise and enhance education and training in Piping performance and theory and to ensure consistent standards, and to improve Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Band performance in Scotland and in other countries.

#### **3.1 General aims of the awards**

The general aims of the awards are to:

- ◆ enhance the status of Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Band music in general
- ◆ set common standards of teaching
- ◆ set common standards of assessment and achieve consistent quality assurance; and
- ◆ encourage higher standards of performance

#### **3.2 Specific aims of the award**

The specific aims of the awards are to:

- ◆ certificate different levels of performance
- ◆ expand uptake of the qualifications as a result of their enhanced status and national currency
- ◆ improve credit links and achieve parity of esteem with other forms of music

#### **3.3 Target groups**

The principal target groups are:

- ◆ Individuals interested in Bagpipe Music
- ◆ Existing Pipers involved in solo playing or members of Pipe Bands
- ◆ Armed Forces personnel
- ◆ Army Cadet Force and University Officer Training personnel
- ◆ Education Authorities in Scotland, the wider UK and internationally
- ◆ Other Piping and Pipe Band organisations in Scotland
- ◆ Affiliated and other Piping and Pipe Band organisations in other countries
- ◆ Skills development organisations

#### **3.4 Employment opportunities**

For award holders there is scope for employment opportunities in:

- ◆ Teaching of bagpipes or other forms of music
- ◆ The music and entertainment industry in general
- ◆ The Scottish Police Service (all 8 Scottish Forces have Pipe Bands)
- ◆ The Armed Forces
- ◆ Bagpipe manufacturing industry (in which the UK plays a leading role)

## **4 Access to awards**

Access to the awards in Scotland and in other countries will be through SQA-approved Assessment Centres in the College of Piping, National Piping Centre, Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, and Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

There is also scope for access through Education Authorities, Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Institutions.

## 5 Awards structure

The awards' structure comprises two levels in Piping incorporating both Solo Performance and Theory as below:

### 5.1 Framework

Award title	Units	Unit codes	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
PDA Scottish Bagpipes	Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes	F7NV 34	7	12	2
	Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Bagpipes	F7NX 34	7	6	1
PDA Scottish Bagpipes	Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes	F7NW 35	8	12	2
	Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Bagpipes	FP17 35	8	6	1

### 5.2 Mapping information

General and specific aims	How the Units map to the aims
Enhance the status of Piping and Pipe Band music in general	The level and credit value of each Unit has been established in line with the SCQF
Set common standards of teaching	Teaching will be derived from Unit specifications
Set common standards of assessment and achieve consistent quality assurance	Assessment of each Unit is specified and assessment guidelines have been produced
Encourage higher standards of performance	Units are clearly written showing how progression through the standards is achieved
Certificate different levels of performance	Units from SCQF level 7 and 8
Expand uptake of the qualifications as a result of their enhanced status and national currency	Easy for Centres offering the qualifications to understand the level of each Unit
Improve credit links and achieve parity of esteem with other forms of music	SCQF level.

These PDA awards were developed in conjunction with the PDQB as identified above. The organisations comprising the PDQB have for many years set and maintained the standards for Scottish Bagpipe and Scottish Pipe Band Drumming music — therefore performance and theory for each Unit is aligned to long established standards.

## **5.3 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer**

### **Articulation**

The PDAs in Scottish Bagpipes are designed to provide progression routes to the full range of mainstream music options such as higher education.

### **Professional recognition**

Completion of these PDA's will lead to recognition from the various Piping and Pipe Band organisations around the world and within the Piping fraternity generally, as well as organisations such as the Armed Forces.

### **Credit transfer**

Linkage to the SCQF offers the opportunity for credit transfer with other music qualifications, particularly on aspects of music theory and with other areas of traditional music. There is also scope for credit transfer with awards offered in Higher Education such as the BA (Scottish Music — Piping) and the BA (Scottish Music) more generally.

## **6 Approaches to delivery and assessment**

These awards have been designed to allow the maximum flexibility in the way they are delivered and assessed, eg they can be delivered as regular, weekly sessions in schools or as short intensive courses in Piping or Pipe Band organisations, Pipe Bands or other extra-curricular contexts. Central consideration is that providers must have access to the full range of expertise and resources necessary to deliver the content of each award.

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 Theory at all levels. These are available for use as part of instructional programmes or for candidates who wish to take the Assessments direct.

Units in Piping may form part of a Group Award, for example in traditional music, but can also be offered on a standalone basis. Units may be offered in a variety of ways, from direct teaching/training courses or practical workshops sessions. It may also be possible to study using distance learning programmes, eg Skype, websites and video content.

Assessment will follow procedures approved by the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board available from the PDQB website.

Assessment must be carried out in front of an approved Assessor either as individual assessments or combined in a single assessment event/performance.

Assessment Support Packs have been produced for these awards in collaboration with the PDQB.

Candidates must pass all components in Theory and Performance to be awarded a certificate. The scores for all areas are aggregated to gain an overall Grade for the Unit, an overall A, B, C or D grading will be awarded.

### **E-learning/e-assessment**

Although the primary focus of the award is in a practical area, centres are encouraged to make use of electronic resources where possible. This may include the use of Skype, websites and video content.

## **7 General information for centres**

### **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 on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

### **Internal and external verification**

All instruments of assessment used within this/these Group Awards should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in SQA's *Guide to Assessment* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## **8 General information for candidates**

The PDA Piping qualifications are practical-based qualifications that require you to spend the majority of your time practising performance or theory of music.

Each PDA is designed to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to allow you to progress to a higher-level qualification.

Occupations may be available in a wide variety of settings within the music industry sector as well as the Armed Forces. Achievement of PDA Scottish Bagpipes (SCQF levels 7 and 8) may open up other progression or employment opportunities.

PDA Scottish Bagpipes (SCQF level 7 and 8) require you to achieve a minimum of three credits. You can get information on each Professional Development Awards (PDA) from the Unit specifications.

You will be assessed on the knowledge and skills developed in each Unit. The Theory Unit will develop theoretical understanding and the Performance Unit will develop your skills on your instrument. You will then undertake a practical assessment on your instrument and a written assessment for the Theory Unit.

## 9 Glossary of terms

**SCQF:** This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they interrelate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF see Appendix 2 or visit the SCQF website at [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk).

**SCQF credits:** One NPA credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. This applies to all NPA Units, irrespective of their level.

**SCQF levels:** The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning.

**Subject Unit:** Subject Units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

**Signposted Core Skills:** This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

**Qualification Design Team:** The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the HNC/D from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

**Assessment:** The process of collecting and interpreting evidence of candidate performance.

## **10 Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Piping and Pipe Band Drumming qualifications background
- Appendix 2: The organisations
- Appendix 3: Unit Study Areas

## **Appendix 1: Piping and Pipe Band Drumming qualifications background**

The graded Piping and Pipe Band Drumming qualifications have been available through the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board since 1 January 2007, following a harmonisation of the qualifications available previously from the five constituent members of the PDQB. The graded qualifications have been available through four Assessment Centres (College of Piping, National Piping Centre, Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, and RSPBA) and total annual certifications have amounted to approximately 500, around 90% of which have been in the levels covered by the proposed National Progression Awards.

With the enhanced status of national currency there is potential to expand annual certifications to double these numbers within Scotland and the wider UK. The areas of potential expansion include:

- ◆ Learning programmes offered by the constituent organisations of the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (including an expanded educational programme conducted by regional Branches of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association).
- ◆ Individuals in Pipe Bands (over 400 of which are based in the UK and are registered with the RSPBA).
- ◆ The general public in Scotland and the wider UK, with increased publicity through initiatives and events such as Major Pipe Band Championships (including the annual World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow which involves 8,000 competitors and an audience of 40,000), the annual Piping Live Festival (which in 2008 comprised 90 individual traditional music events in Glasgow attracting 25,000 visitors), the Army's 'Piper's Trail' project, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Homecoming Scotland, and Scottish Traditional Music organisations.

## **Appendix 2: The organisations**

**The organisations, all based in Scotland, which set standards and offer education programmes for Piping and/or Pipe Bands within the UK and internationally.**

### **Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming**

The School traces its origins back to 1910 and the first Army Class run by the Piobaireachd Society. It is based in Edinburgh and is part of the Army Recruiting and Training Division. It provides tuition in Piping, Pipe Band Drumming, Drum Majoring and Bugle playing to all three Armed Services, the Territorial Army and the Army Cadet Force.

### **College of Piping**

The College of Piping, based in, Glasgow, was established in 1944 for the teaching of the Great Highland Bagpipe. The College, a registered charity, operates as a centre of excellence for Scotland's national music.

### **National Piping Centre**

The National Piping Centre, based in Glasgow, was founded in 1996 as a national and international centre of excellence for the Great Highland Bagpipe and its music. HRH Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, is the Patron. The Centre, also a registered charity, provides teaching facilities leading to certificated qualifications, including a 4 year Honours Degree programme — BA (Scottish Music — Piping) which it delivers collaboratively with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

### **Piobaireachd Society**

The Piobaireachd Society was formed in 1903 and its objects are to encourage the study and playing of Piobaireachd on the Great Highland Bagpipe as well as the collection and publication of Piobaireachd manuscripts, and the diffusion of knowledge of ancient Piobaireachd music. The Society is a registered charity and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the patron.

### **Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA), based in Glasgow, was founded in 1930 as a governing body to promote and encourage the culture and advancement of Pipe Band music nationally and internationally. The Association is a registered charity that administers an education programme in Piping, Pipe Band Drumming and Drum Majoring at local level throughout the UK leading to certificated qualifications.

## Appendix 3: Unit Study Areas

Units and Study Areas
<b>Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes (SCQF level 7)</b> Demonstrate sight-reading competence of Bagpipe music using the Practice Chanter Perform a programme of Light Music (Ceol Beag) on the Bagpipe Perform a programme of Piobaireachd (Ceol Mor) on the Bagpipe Tune Bagpipes accurately Display competence in marching and deportment
<b>Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Bagpipes (SCQF level 7)</b> Demonstrate knowledge of Pitch and Pentatonic Scales. Notate Piobaireachd and Light Music. Identify and describe the requirements and format for specific dances. Demonstrate understanding of Piping and Pipe Band history, and associated individuals and organisations. Demonstrate knowledge of Bagpipe assembly and maintenance Demonstrate knowledge of Pitch and Pentatonic Scales.
<b>Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes (SCQF level 8)</b> Perform a programme of Light Music (Ceol Beag) on the Bagpipe Perform a programme of Piobaireachd (Ceol Mor) on the Bagpipe Tune Bagpipes accurately Display competence in marching and deportment
<b>Scottish Bagpipe Theory: Bagpipes (SCQF level 8)</b> Write music for different tune types. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Piobaireachd construction and classification. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Piobaireachd movements and notation. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the history of Piping