



**Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes**

**SCQF level 5**

**Unit Code: F7P3 11**

**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 required to be technically competent on the Practice Chanter and Bagpipes. There are five study areas as follows:

Study area 1 Show skills in sight-reading Bagpipe music.

Study area 2 Perform monotone exercises to show your understanding of rhythm.

Study area 3 Perform a programme of Bagpipe music.

Study area 4 Tune the Bagpipes accurately.

Study area 5 Show skill 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 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 4, Institute of Piping 2 Certificate, RSPBA Elementary Certificate or PDQB Piping 2 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 sight-reading Bagpipe music, tune Bagpipes, perform exercises and play Bagpipe music, tap out monotone exercises and show marching and deportment skill. The work of this Unit involves practical exercises.

### **When you are showing sight-reading skills**

You will show that you can sight-read music notation in Simple and Compound Time.

### **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 and show performance skill and technique. In your performance you will play music in different Time Signatures and play accurate notation.

### **When you are showing Bagpipe tuning skills**

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

## **Sight reading**

You must play on the Practice Chanter a previously unseen piece of Bagpipe music selected by the Assessor.

You must:

## **Read and play music notation accurately**

Read and play the selected music in Simple Time — 2/4, 3/4, 4/4; or Compound Time — 6/8, 9/8, 12/8

## **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, 3/4 and Compound Time — 6/8, 9/8

## **Perform a programme of Bagpipe music**

You must show musical skills by playing on the Bagpipes:

For light music — two parts of a Slow Air and four parts of each of a March (in both Simple and Compound Time), a Strathspey, a Reel, a Hornpipe, and a Jig;

and

For Piobaireachd — one ground of a Piobaireachd and one variation singling and doubling.

All pieces should be played from memory. The tunes must be played in accordance with the written score presented to the Assessor.

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

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**

You must tune the Bagpipes during the light music and Piobaireachd performances.

You must:

- ◆ Show Chanter and Drone tuning technique
- ◆ Show blowing skills and maintain 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 Bagpipe

## **What might this involve?**

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in following activities:

- ◆ Tapping or clapping out rhythms
- ◆ Practice sight-reading of Bagpipe music
- ◆ Practice playing Bagpipe music
- ◆ Practice tuning Bagpipes
- ◆ Practice marching, deportment and posture

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

You could move on to:

Scottish Bagpipe Solo Performance: Bagpipes at SCQF level 6

## 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, tuning of 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 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 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 5) (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** F7P3 11  
**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

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2009