



**Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory**

**SCQF level 6**

**Unit Code: F7NK 12**

**40 hour Unit**

## What are the Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Qualifications?

These are Scotland's Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (PDQB) standards, based on the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Structured Learning Manuals 1-3. They have been developed as an introduction to the music theory associated with Scottish Pipe Band Drumming.

The Scottish Pipe Band consists of a section of Pipers, Snare Drummers (generally referred to as 'Side Drummers'), Tenor Drummers and a single Bass Drummer. The entire Drum section is known collectively as the Drum Corps. The Tenor Drummers and Bass Drummer are referred to collectively as the Bass Section. The Pipe Band follows the direction of the Pipe Major although when on parade a Drum Major may lead the Pipe Band.

The Drum Corps is the percussion section of the Pipe Band, which requires a variety of performance techniques. To play the instruments competently an understanding of musical theory; rhythm, melody and harmony; instrument tuning; and musical ornamentation is also essential.

## What is this Unit about?

This Unit will give you a basic understanding of music theory generally but relating to Scottish Pipe Band Drumming specifically. It will also provide you with knowledge of maintenance associated with Pipe Band Drums. There are five study areas as follows:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Study area 1 | Show an understanding of music notation.                   |
| Study area 2 | Show an understanding of rhythm using monotone exercises.  |
| Study area 3 | Show an understanding of sound production and measurement. |
| Study area 4 | Write Drum music for different tune types.                 |
| Study area 5 | Show knowledge of Snare, Bass and Tenor Drum maintenance.  |

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 should have a level of generally secure knowledge and understanding of musical theory as it relates to Pipe Band Drumming allowing you to demonstrate that you have achieved the learning requirements of this Unit.

These may be demonstrated by the achievement of the Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory Certificate SCQF level 5 or PDQB Pipe Band Drumming 3 Certificate. Additional advance study will be required from relevant manuals such as the RSPBA Structured Learning Manual 1-3 or other similar learning materials. Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the assessment centre.

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

You will be required to read and write standard Drum notation as well as answer various questions concerning sound production and measurement and Drum maintenance. The work of this Unit involves written exercises.

### **When you are showing an understanding of music notation**

You will write out the answer to questions and describe aspects of music theory.

### **When you are writing monotone exercises**

You will notate a four bar sample of a monotone rhythm in Simple and Compound Time.

### **When you are showing an understanding of sound production and measurement**

You will write out descriptions relating to sound production, characteristics of sound, measurement of sound production, musical and unmusical sounds, and how sound is produced by different instruments.

### **When you are writing Drum music for different tune types**

You will write music notation for different tune types from memory.

### **When you show that you understand Snare, Bass and Tenor Drum maintenance**

You will write an essay identify the parts and functions of Snare, Bass and Tenor Drums as well as describe how to maintain and tune them. You will also describe 'dampening' techniques for Bass and Tenor Drums.

## **How do I get this Unit?**

You will need to show that you have developed and gained all the skills required in the Unit. Each study area may be assessed individually; but all areas may also be combined in a single assessment event. All exercise requirements are marked and a pass or fail is awarded for the Unit.

## **Music notation**

You must write out the answer to describe aspects of music theory as listed below.

You must answer questions on:

- ◆ The Great Staff, Short Staff and Clefs
- ◆ Note Values and Rests
- ◆ Simple and Compound Time
- ◆ Rhythmic patterns
- ◆ Time Signatures
- ◆ Tempo, volume and expression
- ◆ Embellishments

## **Monotone exercises**

You must notate a four bar sample of a monotone rhythm in Simple and Compound Time. The Simple Time monotone must be in either a 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 Time Signature; or the Compound Time monotone must be in either a 6/8, 9/8 or 12/8 Time Signature. You must include the use of two types of Rest and each Bar must use a different combination of note values.

## **Sound production and measurement**

You must show your understanding of sound production and measurement by producing a written description of each of the following:

- ◆ The factors relating to the production of sound — originator, vibrating body, medium and receptor
- ◆ The characteristics of sound — pitch, volume and sound quality
- ◆ How sound is measured — volume and pitch
- ◆ The difference between musical and unmusical sounds
- ◆ How different instruments produce sound — wind, stringed and percussion

## **Writing Drum music for different tune types**

You must write one part (eight bars) of Drum music, from memory of either a Strathspey, Reel or Jig.

You must:

- ◆ Write music notation clearly
- ◆ Use correct Clefs, Time Signature and Bar Lines when writing notation

## **Snare, Bass and Tenor Drum maintenance**

You must write an essay where you will show your knowledge of Snare, Bass and Tenor Drum care and maintenance.

You must:

- ◆ Identify different parts and functions of a Snare, Bass and Tenor Drum
- ◆ Describe how to maintain Snare, Bass and Tenor Drums
- ◆ Describe how to tune Snare, Bass and Tenor Drums accurately
- ◆ Describe 'dampening' techniques for Bass and Tenor Drums

## **What might this involve?**

Here are examples of some things you will do:

Participate in the following activities:

- ◆ Practice exercises regarding music notation
- ◆ Practice writing out monotone exercises
- ◆ Writing out music notation on the staff using a Clef and a Time Signature for Drums
- ◆ Answering sample questions concerning sound production and measurement
- ◆ Answering sample questions concerning Snare, Bass and Tenor Drum care, maintenance and tuning

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

You could move on to:

Scottish Pipe Band Studies

## Guidance for tutors

This Unit is intended to introduce learners to the main theoretical concepts that form the foundations of music generally but to the Snare Drum specifically. There are five areas of study covering demonstrating an understanding of music notation, monotone exercises, sound production and measurement, writing Drum music for different tune types as well demonstrating an understanding of Snare, Bass and Tenor Drum maintenance.

Tutors and instructors will find comprehensive supporting material in relevant publications such as 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 Pipe Band Snare Drumming Music Theory 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 assessment 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 in a realistic time.

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

1 credit(s) at (SQA level 6) (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6)

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