



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Piping SCQF Level 4 (PDQB Level 2 Bagpipes)

This guide is intended for both Students and Instructors. It must be read in conjunction with Piping SCQF Level 4 Syllabus to ensure all aspects are covered. Refer www.pdqb.org.

It is strongly recommended that all students sitting this level purchase RSPBA Structured Learning Book 1. It is therefore important that Instructors uses Structured Learning Book 1 as their main source material.

Bands or Branches may have a supply of these books.

Or go to www.rspba.org – select “Online Store” to purchase these books on line.

Knowledge of previous levels is essential for this level. Students who start at this level may be required to prove competency of previous levels by the Examiner. Be prepared for this. SCQF 2 and SCQF 3 Theory is fundamental for understanding this (SCQF 4) Theory.

Theory Aspects:

There are 4 Study Areas in Theory – you must pass each Area in the Examination. The Study Areas are:

Understanding of Bagpipe Movements – all embellishments played in previous levels.

Music Notation – Aspects in previous levels must be understood – see also “What you might encounter in your Theory Examination” shared later in this document.

Writing Simple Music – write 8 Bars of a Simple Time tune from memory (Neatness here is imperative) – MUST be the Simple Time Tune you are playing in your Solo Performance.

Maintenance (Bagpipes) – see the Maintenance section later in this document.



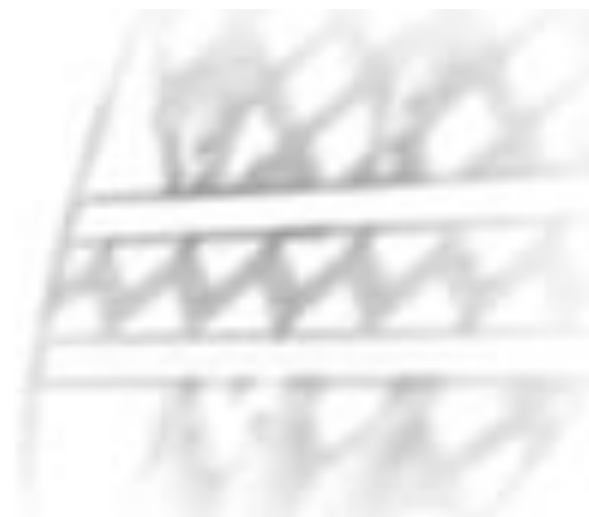
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Piping SCQF Level 4 (PDQB Level 2 Bagpipes)

Here are examples of the activity that the Student may encounter in the examination:

- Be able to Draw the Treble Clef (refer Piping SCQF Level 2 – PDQB Level 1 Chanter for expectations) and explain it – also known as G Clef – distortion of the old letter G and winds its way around the G Line.
- Be able to explain what a time signature is using an example(s). What its purpose is – number of Beats in Bar – relationship to the Semibreve - Where you find it etc.
- Be able to Draw the Table of Note Values – state the duration names and the relative value to the Semibreve. . e.g. Crotchet (Quarter Note).
- Be able to identify time signatures from a piece of music.
- Be able to Name at least 3 Simple Time signatures (keep to those we use in pipe music) and explain their meaning.
- Music Score Writing is included in the Theory Paper – requirements / details are included in the under the “Practical Aspects” in this document and will be covered by Instructors in the Practical Sessions.





The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Piping SCQF Level 4 (PDQB Level 2 Bagpipes)

Maintenance Aspects – covered in the Practical Sessions:

There is no expectation of the Student being asked to write on this activity at this stage. This is an oral examination. The Student will be asked by the Examiner to demonstrate by showing and talking the Examiner through each of the Maintenance Activities. Students need to be able to explain the following.

- **Naming all of the parts of a bagpipe – ½ Mark for each one:**
 1. Pipe Chanter
 2. 2 Tenor Drones
 3. 1 Bass Drone
 4. Blowstick
 5. Stocks
 6. Bag
 7. Bag Cover
 8. Cords

- **How to properly replace and remove the pipe chanter** - Grip the chanter at the bowl with one hand and at the ferrule end of the chanter stock (1 mark). Turn carefully and lift straight off (1 mark). Do not turn from the sole end (1 mark). When withdrawing, take due care not to damage the Blades of the chanter reed (1 mark).

- **How to properly replace and remove the drones** - Grip the bottom projecting mount of the drone with one hand and at the ferrule end of the drone stock (1 mark). Turn carefully and lift straight off (1 mark). Do not turn from the top projecting mount (1 mark). When withdrawing, take due care not to damage the bridle of the drone reed (1 mark).

- **Correct hemping/sealing of pipe joints** - Waxed hemp should be used to help keep airtight (1 mark) and water-tight (1 mark). Careful winding under tension (1 mark) to produce an even joint (1 mark). The fit must be tested periodically to ensure the best fit is gained (1 mark).

- **How to correctly tie on and space the drone cords** - Drones should be equally spaced 5-6 inches (15cm approx) (1 mark). Tie cords on with strong thread or plastic fasteners (1 mark). Trailing length of tassels from bass and tenor should be of similar length (1 mark).



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Piping SCQF Level 4 (PDQB Level 2 Bagpipes)

Practical Aspects – Known as the “Solo Performance”:

There are 3 Study Areas in the Solo Performance – you must pass each Area in the Examination. The Study Areas are:

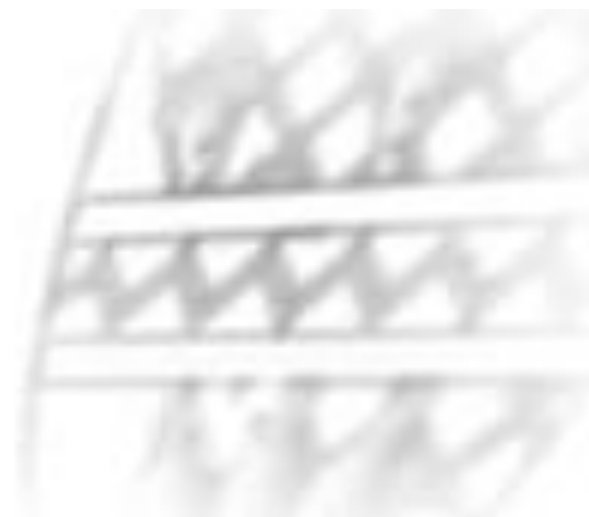
Piping Exercises – We suggest you obtain the RSPBA Music for Exercises for this Level.

Monotone Exercises – Practice the Monotones below.

Bagpipe Music – the 5 Tunes (Type defined later in this document) that you are going to submit and play on the Bagpipe.

In respect of tune requirements, again the Student needs to present the Music Scores to the Examiner. It is strongly recommended that both Students and Instructors are aware of the current requirements. Ensure you check the following:

- Refer to PDQB Syllabus for requirements – it is essential to refer to the Web for the Exercises and Tune requirements, just in case the PDQB has changed the requirements – www.pdqb.org
- For Standards Expectations, Refer to: www.college-of-piping.co.uk Click PDQB – review videos





The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Piping SCQF Level 4 (PDQB Level 2 Bagpipes)

Exercises:

- All doublings (Low G to High A), from any note in the Scale.
- Throw on D from each note of the scale.
- Grips (including grips with a B gracenote).
- 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).

Other Practical Activity:

- Be able to write 8 Bars of a Simple Time tune from memory (**Neatness here is imperative**) – The Tune MUST be selected from those submitted by the candidate for the practical session. **Therefore, the tune MUST be the 3/4 or the 4/4 you have chosen to play in the “Solo Performance” - requirements stated below.**
- Be able to write all embellishments covered in Levels 1 and 2. The Grip embellishment may have the name Lemluath in brackets beside it in exam.
- Basic monotone exercises in Simple and Compound Time – see examples later in this document.
- Five tunes played on the Bagpipe are required – here the expectations are clearly defined. The Music must be presented to the examiner and played in accordance with the score. The Music does not have to be written out by the Candidate.



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Piping SCQF Level 4 (PDQB Level 2 Bagpipes)

Defined tune requirements:

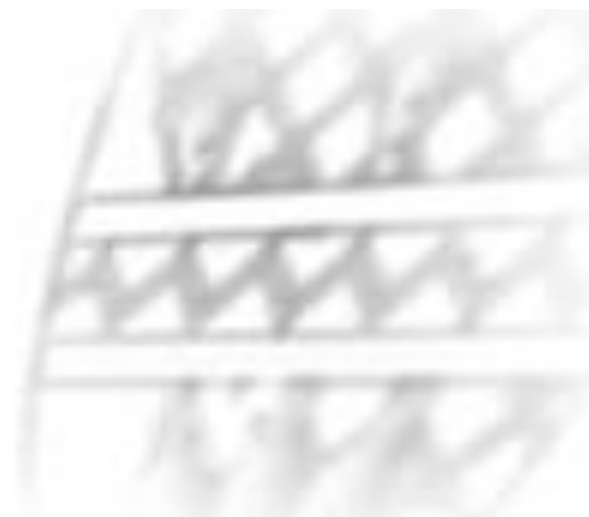
- a. 2 parts of a Slow Air.
- b. 2 parts of a March in 3/4 or 4/4 Time.
- c. 2 parts of a March in 6/8 or 9/8 Time.
- d. 2 Parts of a Strathspey.
- e. 2 parts of a Reel.

Recommended Tunes – but not restricted to:

1. Scots Wha Hae
2. My Home
3. Green Hills of Tyrol
4. The Thistle of Scotland
5. Flett from Flotta
6. Bonnie Dundee
7. Steam Boat
8. RSPBA MAP Tunes – Strathspeys – keep it simple
9. RSPBA MAP Tunes – Reels – keep it simple – **with dots and cuts**

For RSPBA MAP Tunes go to – www.rspbq.org (Committees / Music Board / MAP Tunes) – keep the choice simple – your Instructor will guide you.

Example of Monotone Exercises for this Level – see next Page:





The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Piping SCQF Level 4 (PDQB Level 2 Bagpipes)

