



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Pipe Band College Education Certification Guidelines

PDQB Certificate – SCQF Level 5 Bagpipes

This guide is intended for both Students and Instructors. It must be read in conjunction with SCQF 5 Bagpipes Syllabus to ensure all aspects are covered. Refer www.pdqb.org.

It is strongly recommended that all students sitting this level uses RSPBA Structured Learning Book 1. It is also recommended to purchase The College of Piping Tutor 4 – Piobaireachd be purchased. It is therefore important that Instructors use these recommended books as their main source material. The RSPBA Structured Learning Books are available free of charge on the RSPBA Website.

Obtain College of Piping Tutor 4.

Knowledge of Levels 2, 3 and 4 is essential for Level 5. Students who start at Level 5 may be required to prove competency of prior levels by the Examiner. Be prepared for this.

Theory Aspects:

There are 4 Study Areas in Theory – The Study Areas are:

Write Monotone Exercises – see “What you might encounter in your Theory Examination” shared later in this document.

Music Notation – Aspects in SCQF 2, 3 and 4 must be understood as well as the “What you might encounter in your Theory Examination” shared later in this document.

Writing Music for different tune types – write 8 Bars of a 6/8, 4 Bars of a Strathspey and 4 Bars of a Reel – all from memory. Write all embellishments that have been stated in previous Levels. To / from any note.

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



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Pipe Band College Education Certification Guidelines

PDQB Certificate – SCQF Level 5 Bagpipes

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

Activity - (Structured Learning - 1.7.3).

- Explain the purpose of a Leger Line and provide an illustration.
- Draw out the Great Staff and show the pitch of the Tenor Drone (Drum), Bass Drone (Drum) and all of the notes on the Bagpipe Scale. Ensure it is neat and tidy and clearly demonstrates that your presentation is understood, not only by you, but by the Assessor reviewing it.

Activity – Practice this activity – be confident in it.

- Write out 4 bars of a monotone rhythm in various combinations e.g. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 9/8 etc. where each bar contains different combination of note and rest values. This activity is fundamental to the understanding of written music notation – study it carefully.

Activity - (Refer RSPBA – Music Writing Template process) – Practice this activity – be confident in it and be neat with your presentation.

- Practice writing from Memory 8 Bars of a 6/8 ensuring all the embellishments are correctly notated. Here neatness is imperative.
- Practice writing from Memory 4 Bars Strathspey and Reel ensuring all embellishments are correctly notated. Here neatness is imperative.
- Be able to write all embellishments that have been stated in previous Levels. To / from any note. Here neatness is imperative.



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Pipe Band College Education Certification Guidelines

PDQB Certificate – SCQF Level 5 Bagpipes

Maintenance Aspects:

Refer Structured Learning 1.20 for appropriate references

In Level 5 Maintenance activity is in written form.

- Be able to explain in no more than 250 words the requirements fitting bagpipe and identify 6 different makes of drone reed. Consider bag size, bag cover size, blow stick length, spread of drones etc.
- Be able to explain in no more than 250 words how to ensure the Bagpipe is cleaned and dried and how to ensure all joints are correctly hemped/sealed.
- Explain in no more than 250 words the essential elements of a well-maintained bagpipe so that your Bagpipe stayed in good playing order.

Practical Aspects – Known as the “Solo Performance”:

There are 5 Study Areas in the Solo Performance – you must pass each Area in the Examination. The Study Areas are:

Monotone Exercises – Practice the Monotones referred to below.

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

Sight Reading – The Assessor will ask you to sight read tunes appropriate to this level.

Tuning – Candidates will be expected to make a reasonable attempt at tuning their Drones and be able to explain the basic principles of Drone tuning.

Marching and Deportment – Candidates will be expected to march to appropriate tunes and be comfortable with the Bagpipe demonstrating a smart approach/stance – uniform is not a requirement.



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Pipe Band College Education Certification Guidelines

PDQB Certificate – SCQF Level 5 Bagpipes

Considerations:

- Refer to PDQB Syllabus for requirements – www.pdqb.org

Consider Playing Requirements, Monotone Exercises, Tuning of the Bagpipe and Marching & Deportment aspects.

- For Standards Expectations, Refer to:
Click PDQB – review videos



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Pipe Band College Education Certification Guidelines

PDQB Certificate – SCQF Level 5 Bagpipes

It is strongly recommended that Students and Instructors print the Syllabus for Level 3 and continually refer to it when preparing for the Practical Activity.

Candidates submit tunes comprising:

- (1) 2 parts of a Slow Air**
- (2) 4 parts of a March in Simple Time**
- (3) 4 parts of a March in Compound Time**
- (4) 4 parts of a Strathspey**
- (5) 4 parts of a Reel – RSPBA recommend Dot and Cut Tunes**
- (6) 4 parts of a Hornpipe – RSPBA recommend Dot & Cut Tunes**
- (7) 4 parts of a Jig**
- (8) One Ground of a Piobaireachd and one variation singling and doubling**

Recommended Tunes – but not restricted to:

It is important that the Student does not try to impress the examiner with tunes that belong to higher levels – try to keep within the expectations suggested in the recommended tunes.

Piobaireachd – all available in College of Piping Tutor 4:

(Ground of a Piobaireachd and one variation singling and doubling)

Company's Lament
Glengarry's Lament
MacIntosh's Banner
Lament for Alastair Dearg

Slow Airs:

Mist Covered Mountains
My Home
Mairi Bhan Og

2/4 Marches:

79th Farewell to Gibraltar
25th KOSB's Farewell to Meerut
Muir of OrdMacPherson's Lament



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Pipe Band College Education Certification Guidelines

PDQB Certificate – SCQF Level 5 Bagpipes

Continued:

Strathspeys:

Dornie Ferry
Peggy Gillies
Dorrator Bridge
Captain Colin Campbell

Reels (Dot and Cut presentation):

Kildonan
The Keel Row reel
Sound of Sleat
Lexie MacAskill

6/8 Marches:

P/M Sam Scott
Jean Mauchline
Frank Thompson
Meg MacRae

Hornpipes (Dot and Cut presentation):

Clydeside
Old Toasty

Jigs

Corkhill
The Duck
Atholl Highlanders Jig



