



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Pipe Band College Certification Education Guidelines

PDQB Certificate – SCQF Level 3 Chanter

This guide is intended for both Students and Instructors. It must be read in conjunction with SCQF 3 Chanter Syllabus to ensure all aspects are covered. Refer www.pdqb.org.

It is strongly recommended that all students sitting this level refer to the
:

RSPBA Structured Learning Book 1.

It is therefore important that Instructors use Structured Learning Book 1 as their main source material. This activity is now available at the RSPBA website free of charge.

Knowledge of Level 2 is essential for Level 3. Students who start at Level 2 may be required to prove competency of Level 1 by the Examiner. Be prepared for this. Level 2 Theory is fundamental for understanding Level 3 Theory.

Theory Aspects:

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

Understanding of Bagpipe Movements – all embellishments played in PDQB Levels 2 and 3.

Music Notation – Aspects in Level 2 must be understood as well as the “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.

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



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

Activity - (Structured Learning - 1.7.1 Lesson 6).

- 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.

Activity - (Structured Learning - 1.15.1 - 1.15.7 Lesson 15).

- 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.

Activity - (Structured Learning - 1.8.3).

- Draw the Table of Note Values (and Rests) - in full. State the duration names and the relative value to the Semibreve. e.g. Crotchet (Quarter Note).

Activity - (Structured Learning - 1.15.1 - 1.15.7 Lesson 15).

- Identify time signatures from a piece of music.
- Name at least 3 Simple Time signatures (keep to those we use in pipe music) and explain their meaning.

Activity - (Refer RSPBA – Music Writing Template process).

- 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.

Maintenance Aspects – Covered in the Practical Sessions:

The Student will not be required to provide a written response during this assessment. Evidence of achievement will be provided by a short practical assessment and an oral explanation of each of the Maintenance Activities. **Refer Structured Learning 1.20 for appropriate references.** Students are required to:



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- **Dismantle the practice chanter** - Grip the chanter at the bowl with one hand and at the ferrule end of the top section (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 practice chanter reed (1 mark).
- **Clean and dry the practice chanter** - Shake off excess moisture (1 mark). Take out reed and leave to dry(1 mark). Brush out mouthpiece (1 mark).
- **Hemp correctly the practice Chanter** - 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).
- **Weaken and strengthen a practice chanter reed** - Weaken - close blades (1 mark). Carefully by applying a band or Bridle (1 mark). Strengthen - open blades by applying pressure at the sides (1 mark). Remove or move the band/bridle down (1 mark).
- **Sharpen and flatten the practice chanter pitch** - Sharpen - Sink reed in the reed seat (1 mark). Apply a band or bridle (1 mark). Flatten - Raise reed in the reed seat (1 mark). Remove or move the band/bridle down (1 mark).

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 referred to below.

Bagpipe Music – the 5 Tunes you are going to submit and play on the Practice Chanter.



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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:
Click PDQB – review video

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.

Other Practical Activity:

- Be able to write 8 Bars of a Simple Time tune from memory. Neatness here is imperative.
- Be able to write all embellishments covered in Levels 1 and 2. Neatness here is imperative. Note the embellishment Grip may have the name Lemluath in brackets beside it in exam papers – this is the same movement.



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- Basic monotone exercises in Simple and Compound Time – see examples later in this document.
- **Five** tunes to be played from memory – **At least one** tune should be **Compound Time**. 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.

Recommended Tunes (or tunes of similar standard):

1. Use RSPBA Prescribed Tune List – look for 2 Quaver Beat tunes – The Instructor / Tutor will guide you.
2. High Road to Gairloch
3. Highland Laddie
4. The Thistle of Scotland
5. Steam Boat
6. Bonnie Dundee

For RSPBA Prescribed Tune List – www.rspbq.org



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SCQF Level 3 Piping Monotone Sheet

