



# The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – EDUCATION CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

## Piping SCQF Level 5 (PDQB Level 3 Piping)

This guide is intended for both Students and Instructors. It must be read in conjunction with Piping SCQF Level 5 Syllabus to ensure all aspects are covered. Refer [www.pdqb.org](http://www.pdqb.org).

It is strongly recommended that all students sitting this level has 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.

Bands or Branches may have a supply of these books.

Or go to [www.rspba.org](http://www.rspba.org) – select “Online Store” to purchase Structured Learning on line.

Or go to [www.college-of-piping.co.uk](http://www.college-of-piping.co.uk) to purchase Tutor 4.

Knowledge of previous levels is essential for this. Students who start at this level may be required to prove competency of prior levels by the Examiner and/or the Theory Paper set for this (SCQF 5). Be prepared for this. Not fully understanding previous theory activity will impact examination requirements for this level.

### Theory Aspects:

There are 4 Study Areas in Theory – you must pass each Area in the Examination. 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 previous levels must be understood – you will see this in “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.



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

- Be able to explain the purpose of a Leger Line and provide an illustration.
- Be able to 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.
- Be able to write out say 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 values. **This activity is fundamental to the understanding of written music notation and practical activity in future Pipe Bands Studies – study Monotones carefully (Written and Practical) - they are fundamental – write them, clap them, tap them, say them - know them.**
- 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.**

#### **Maintenance Aspects:**

In this level 3 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.



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- 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 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.**

#### **Considerations:**

- Refer to PDQB Syllabus for requirements – [www.pdqb.org](http://www.pdqb.org)

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

- For Standards Expectations, Refer to:  
[www.college-of-piping.co.uk](http://www.college-of-piping.co.uk) Click PDQB – review videos

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



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#### 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
- (6) 4 parts of a Hornpipe
- (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:

Leaving Lismore  
Mist Covered Mountains  
My Home  
Mairi Bhan Og

#### 2/4 Marches:

79<sup>th</sup> Farewell to Gibraltar  
25<sup>th</sup> KOSB's Farwell  
Detriot Highlanders



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Hugh Kennedy

#### **Strathspeys:**

Lady Loudon  
Dorrator Bridge  
Captain Colin Campbell

#### **Reels (Dot and Cut presentation):**

Rejected Suitor  
Sound of Sleat  
Lexie MacAskill

#### **6/8 Marches:**

Cock of the North  
Blue Bonnets  
Piobaireachd O' Donald Dubh

#### **Hornpipes (Dot and Cut presentation):**

Jolly Beggarman  
Mason's Apron  
Duncan Johnstone

#### **Jigs**

Jig of Slurs  
Paddy's Leather Breeches

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



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