



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – PDQB EDUCATION GUIDELINES

Pipe Band Drumming SCQF Level 6 (PDQB CERTIFICATE LEVEL)

This guide is intended for both Students and Instructors. It must be read in conjunction with Pipe Band Drumming SCQF Level 6 Syllabus to ensure all aspects are covered. Refer www.pdqb.org.

It is strongly recommended that all students sitting this level have all 3 RSPBA Structured Learning Books.

Bands or Branches may have a supply of these books.

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

Knowledge of previous levels is essential for this level. Students who start at this level may be required to prove competency of prior levels by the Examiner. Be prepared for this. Not understanding the Theory Aspects of this and previous levels will have a significant and detrimental impact on a Students ability to participate in Pipe Band Studies activity.

Theory Aspects:

- Be able to write out say 4 bars of a monotone rhythm in various combinations e.g. Compound Duple time / Cut Common time / Common time etc. And be able to consider rests in the combinations and ensure each bar has different combination of note values.
- Be able to recognise Time Signatures and distinguish if they are Simple or Compound Time.
- Be able to explain the difference between Common Time and Cut Common Time.
- Be able to explain what elements must be present to successfully produce sound and give examples.
- Be able, using a diagram, to show how sound is created and measured.
- Be able to Write in not less than 250 words the categories that make up the characteristics of the production of sound



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – PDQB EDUCATION GUIDELINES

Pipe Band Drumming SCQF Level 6 (PDQB CERTIFICATE LEVEL)

- Practice writing from Memory 8 Bars of a Strathspey, Reel and Jig. At least 1 will be required in the exam – and it is usually specified.
- Be able to write all Drumming embellishments – from all levels.

Maintenance Aspects:

At this level Students are expected to explain Maintenance activity in both Oral and Written format.

- Be able to explain the function and purpose of the internal top snare in the production of sound for a snare drum.
- Be able to name 6 component parts of the snare and explain their functions.
- Be able to name ten component parts which are included in the construction of a snare drum.
- Be able to name 4 component parts from a Tenor drum.
- Be able to write a short explanation of not less than 150 words on what is likely to happen if you neglected to maintain your instrument in the correct manner.
- Be able to explain how to tune Bass and Tenor Drums and explain some of the “Dampening” techniques used.



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – PDQB EDUCATION GUIDELINES

Pipe Band Drumming SCQF Level 6 (PDQB CERTIFICATE LEVEL)

Practical Aspects:

Exercises on the Practice Pad

- (a) Counting Irregular Groups in Simple and Compound Time. Page 1.21.6/7 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 1
- (b) Single Stroke Work. Page 2.20.9 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 2. Exercises 5.1 – 5.8
- (c) Long Roll open and closed
- (d) Five Stroke Roll open and closed. Page 1.21.14 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 1 and Page 2.20.10 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 2
- (e) Seven Stroke Roll open and closed. Page 1.21.14 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 1
- (f) Nine Stroke Roll open and closed. Page 1.21.14 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 1 plus Page 1.21.16
- (g) The Paradiddle. Page 2.20.3/5 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 2
- (h) Flam Movements. Page 2.20.6/7 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 2
- (i) Drag Movements. Page 2.20.8 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 2
- (j) Monotone Exercises
- (k) Continued development of Orchestrated Scores. Page 2.20.13-17 RSPBA Structured Learning Book 2
- (l) Sight read and play a two-parted Snare Drum score as presented by the examiner

Snare Drum

The candidate must demonstrate competence in playing the following on the Snare Drum:

- (1) March, Strathspey and Reel, each of two parts
- (2) Slow March and a Quick March of two parts each in Compound Time

Candidates will be expected to accurately tune their instrument

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

It is strongly recommended that Students and Instructors print the Syllabus for Level 4 and continually refer to it when preparing for the Practical Activity

The Above activity was correct at the time of issue – January 2011



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

Music Board – PDQB EDUCATION GUIDELINES

Pipe Band Drumming SCQF Level 6 (PDQB CERTIFICATE LEVEL)

Monotone Exercises – a typical Example for Level 4 Drumming:

LEVEL FOUR MONOTONE EXERCISE SHEET

Candidates will be required to tap out the rhythm of 4 monotone exercises selected by the examiner.

