

AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND COLLEGE
RESOURCE PACK FOR ADVANCED
CERTIFICATE

PART B- MUSIC WRITING

(2004 DRUMMING SYLLABUS)



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IMPORTANT NOTE

This Information Pack must be used in conjunction with the Advanced Drumming Syllabus and the table of Specific Objectives. The latter defines the required skills and knowledge to be assessed during the Advanced Certificate Examination.

MUSIC WRITING FOR THE APBC ADVANCED DRUMMING EXAMINATION

The Music Writing has a focus on the development of drummers who are attempting to come up to the required composing level for the Advanced Drumming Certificate. For this reason, each candidate must have a **Mentor** appointed by the Branch Drumming Vice-Principal.

A portfolio of drumming compositions for a Medley is a major project associated with the Music Writing component of the qualification. This part of the process may be spread over several weeks or months and is negotiated with the Branch Drumming Vice-Principal before commencing. A selection of the tunes taken from a master recording will be made by the Mentor and the candidate will then set about writing full scores to suit. For very experienced drummers, this will be a relatively straight-forward exercise but still requiring the progressive sign-off by the Mentor. For lesser experienced drummers, considerable guidance and tuition will be required from the Mentor.

The portfolio of scores is presented at the Music Writing examination, with all scores signed-off by the Mentor, and the portfolio is assessed as a part of this component. Essentially, this is one that you have “prepared at home”.

The other composition is for two x four-parted tunes with the music recording being provided in the examination only. A Full Score (Snare, Bass & Tenor) is required from Snare drum candidates and the Examiner will choose the tunes to be used for the compositions. As with the Intermediate Certificate, a ‘*masterpiece*’ is not expected, especially given that examination time constraints will exist. However, a good degree of musicality (fit to the tunes) is expected.

This important segment of the syllabus may either be conducted in a small group or individually, but in all cases must facilitated by a Mentor appointed by the Branch Vice-Principal of Drumming. If a small group scenario is used, the final compositions for the portfolio must still be those of the individual candidates. The contribution of candidates to this process will be monitored to ensure active participation throughout. It is envisaged that this component may be spread over a number of weeks.

From the syllabus: “with the aid of the *Advanced Certificate Examination CD1 of Pipe Music (or mp3 files)*, the written pipe music, and under the guidance of an appointed Mentor, compose a complete medley of six Full Scores, as follows:

- 2/4 March x 2 parts
- Strathspey x 2 parts
- Reel x 2 parts
- Slow Air x 2 parts
- Jig x 2 parts
- Hornpipe x 2 parts

A Full Score format is required that shows Snare on top line, Bass on second line and Tenor on third line (the Mentor has the authority to approve a variation to this format).

The scores must reflect the level of complexity and musicality required of a grade 1 or 2 performance. The candidate will be required to perform the scores during the Music Playing section of the examination.