

# THE AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND COLLEGE

(A division of the Australian Pipe Band Association)

## PIPING SYLLABUS PRELIMINARY, ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE, and ADVANCED CERTIFICATES 2010

### CANDIDATES' GENERAL INFORMATION

- The College Certificates, with the exception of the Teaching Diploma, are comprised of three, separately assessed sections:
  - Theory of Music,
  - Music Writing, and
  - Playing.
- For "Theory of Music" and "Music Writing", all questions should be attempted and must be answered in the Examination Booklet, which will be provided by the Examiner.
- Seventy Five percent(75%), is the pass mark requirement in each of the three sections of the College Examinations.
- Fees for the College examinations will be collected by the State Branch, and may be varied from time-to-time by the Australian Pipe Band Association.

If a candidate is unsuccessful in any one section of an examination, then that section may be re-examined, however, another examination fee will be charged. The re-test must be

completed within a reasonable time.

## **REFERENCES FOR PIPING CERTIFICATES**

The resources mentioned in this section will assist with preparation for the College Examinations. It is the responsibility of candidates to obtain the references. Refer to the State Vice-Principal for availability of the publications.

### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AS MAIN TEXTS FOR ALL LEVELS OF EXAMINATION**

- The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, "**Structured Learning, Book 1, The Elementary Certificate**", published by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, 1991.
- The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, "**Structured Learning, Book 2, The Intermediate Certificate**", published by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, 1991.
- The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, "**Structured Learning, Book 3, The Advanced Certificate**", published by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, 1991.
- Kroehnert, Gary, "**Basic Training for Trainers**", 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Sydney, 1998. ISBN: 0 07 470193 2

### **RECOMMENDED AS SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS FOR ALL LEVELS OF EXAMINATION**

- Australian Music Board, "**Musicianship Examination Books**".
- Bailie, S.H., "**Piping and Drumming, An Integrated Approach, Volumes 1 and 2**", Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School of the N.I. Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Belfast, 1988.
- Karolyi, Otto., "**Introducing Music**", Penguin Books, 1965. ISBN: 0 14 02.0659 0, still in print.
- Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "**Examination Books, grade 1-to-8**", published Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School in association with the Arts Council for Northern Ireland.

- Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "Tutor and Text Book, Volume 1", and "Tutor and Text Book, Volume 2", published by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (editions from 1960's and 1970's), now out of print.
- Spearritt, G.D., "Theory of Music". First to Fifth Grade.

## PRELIMINARY CERTIFICATE SYLLABUS

### THEORY OF MUSIC

- The Staff and its purpose.
- Distinguishing musical sound from noise.
- Note names, relative values and Groupings.
- Rests and their equivalents.
- Time Signatures.
- Lengthening of Notes. Use of the Dot and the Tie.
- The purpose of Bar Lines.
- *Simple Duple, Simple Triple and Simple Quadruple* Time, and the purpose of the identifying numerals.
- Pitch and Duration.

### PLAYING (To be on Practice Chanter or Bagpipe)

- Display the ability to play the Scale (up and down) fluently, without crossing sounds, whilst maintaining constant pitch.
- Display proficiency in the playing of the following Grace Notes: **G, D, E,** and **Low G.**

- Play correctly all Doublings, including Throw on "D".
- Display proficiency in the playing of one **Simple Time March** of **two parts** (repeating both parts), of the candidates own choice. The tune must contain a variety of Grace Notes and Doublings. The Music Score may be read whilst playing.
- Demonstrate knowledge and ability of handling and caring for a Practice Chanter, including cleaning, drying and hemping.

## MUSIC WRITING

- Write neatly **eight bars** of a **Simple Duple Time March**. This must contain a variety of Grace Notes and Doublings.

\*\*\*\*\* End of Preliminary Syllabus \*\*\*\*\*

## ELEMENTARY CERTIFICATE SYLLABUS

### THEORY OF MUSIC

The Examination will be based on the The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, "Structured Learning, Book 1, The Elementary Certificate",

and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "Examination Books, grade 1-to-6", published by the Northern Ireland Branch.

In addition, the Preliminary Certificate's Syllabus requirements should be fully understood and is examinable, together with the following :-

- Simple idea of musical sound and its production.
- The characteristics of sound.

- The two kinds of musical sound.
- The meaning of: *Tempo*, *Volume* and *Expression*, in relation to a musical performance.
- Leger lines, the Clef and the Brace.
- Correct musical notation.
- Rhythm, Time Signatures, Bars of music, and the sub-division of Beat Notes.
- The Pitch range of the Bagpipe, Tenor Drum and Bass Drum.

## **PLAYING**

The required exercises are contained in the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "**Structured Learning, Book 1, The Elementary Certificate**".

### **ON THE PRACTICE CHANTER:**

- The scale with preliminary hand changing exercises.
- Scale with High G and High A gracenotes.
- Hand changing exercises.
- Strikes.
- G, D and E Grace notes.
- Tachum movement.
- Doublings on High A, High G. F and E.
- Light Throw, doublings and Strike on D.
- Doublings on C, B. Low A and Low G.
- Miscellaneous exercises involving the above embellishments.

- Birl on Low A.
- The round movement.
- Ability to sight-read, with a fair degree of accuracy, any Simple Time two-parted March as may be presented by the Examiner.
- Tap out all Simple Time Monotone Exercises.

### ON THE BAGPIPE:

- Display the ability to tune the Bagpipe to a fair degree of accuracy.
- Display proficiency in the playing of an own-choice, two-parted **Simple Duple March**, followed by a two-parted **Strathspey and Reel**, as well as a 2 parted **6/8 time march**.
- Describe the various parts of the Bagpipe and have the ability to explain routine maintenance of the Bagpipe and Reeds.

### MUSIC WRITING

- Write out neatly from memory, a Simple Time, two-parted March having a variety of movements as outlined for the Practical Practice Chanter requirements.

\*\*\*\*\* End of Elementary Syllabus \*\*\*\*\*

## INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE SYLLABUS

### THEORY OF MUSIC

The Examination will be based on the The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, "Structured Learning, Book 2, The Intermediate Certificate", and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "Examination Books, grade 1-to-6", published by the Northern Ireland Branch.

In addition, the Preliminary and Elementary Certificate Syllabus requirements should be fully understood and are examinable, together with the following :-

- Orchestral Instruments - Classification and the simple idea of how sound is produced by various instruments.
- Rhythm, Melody and Harmony.
- Motive, Phrase, Anacrusis.
- Metrical Accent, Syncopation.
- Tempo, Simple, Compound and Asymmetric Time.
- Development of the Great Staff, Clef Signs, Note and Rest Values, Pitch, Accidentals.
- The principle of integrated tuning of Pipes and Drums.

### **PLAYING**

The required exercises are contained in the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "**Structured Learning, Book 2, The Intermediate Certificate**", Pages 2-19-1 to 2-19-9.

#### **ON THE PRACTICE CHANTER:**

- Play correctly Exercises 1 to 22 contained in RSPBA Structured Learning Book 2, pages 2.19.1 to 2.19.9.
- Display the ability to sight read and play with a high degree of accuracy, any four-part March, Strathspey, Reel, any part(s) of which may be selected by the Examiner from the manuscript.

#### **ON THE BAGPIPE:**

- Display the ability to set the Chanter Reed and tune the Drone to a high degree of accuracy.

- Play a selection of tunes to include a **Slow Air/March, Compound Duple Time March, Simple Duple Time March, Strathspey and Reel**. Each of the last four tunes to be of **four** or more parts. **Ground and First Variation of a Piobaireachd**.
- Display a sound knowledge of the care and maintenance of the Bagpipe and a competent ability to correctly adjust reeds.

## **MUSIC WRITING**

- Write out from memory a Simple Duple **March, Strathspey and Reel**, each of four or more parts. The number of parts to be written may be determined by the Examiner.

\*\*\*\*\* End of Intermediate Syllabus \*\*\*\*\*

# **ADVANCED CERTIFICATE SYLLABUS**

## **THEORY OF MUSIC**

The Examination will be based on the The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, "**Structured Learning, Book 3, The Advanced Certificate**", and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "**Examination Books, grade 1-to-8**", published by the Northern Ireland Branch.

In addition, the Preliminary, Elementary and Intermediate Certificate Syllabus requirements should be fully understood and are examinable, together with the following :-

- Scales, Groupings, Intervals, Musical Form, Cadences, Rhythm, Melody and Harmony, Syncopation.
- Explain to the Examiner, the basic principles of tuning the following instruments to achieve good Ensemble effect and Tonal integration within the pipe band :-
  - Bagpipes
  - Snare Drum.

- Bass Drum.
- Tenor Drum.
- Alto/or varied pitch drum.

## **PLAYING**

The required exercises are contained in the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association "**Structured Learning, Book 3, The Advanced Certificate**".

### **ON THE PRACTICE CHANTER:**

To be able to play exercises nominated by the Examiner from RSPBA Structured Learning, Book 3, together with selected exercises from those required in the Preliminary, Elementary, and Intermediate Piping Syllabus.

## ON THE BAGPIPE:

- Demonstrate the ability to accurately tune the Bagpipe.
- Submit **three** Selections consisting of:- **a Simple Duple Time March, Strathspey and Reel**. Each to be of four or more parts. One or more of each which will be selected for the candidate to perform.
- The candidate will also be required to submit **three Hornpipes and Jigs, and three Compound Duple Time Marches**. Each tune to be of four or more parts. One or more of each which will be selected for the candidate to perform.
- In addition the candidate will be required to play a full **Piobaireachd** containing both a **taorluath and crunluath variation**.
- All performance elements to be recorded and submitted to the Principal of Piping.
- Demonstrate the ability to adjust and accurately set the reeds of the Bagpipe.
- Demonstrate the ability to set in unison the Bagpipes of at least three Pipers. They are then to play together a March, of any time signature selected by the candidate.

## MUSIC WRITING

- Write out from memory at least two, four-or-more parted pipe tunes. The tunes to be written will be chosen by the Examiner from a selection March/Strathspey/Reel, Hornpipe and Jig, submitted by the Candidate prior to the examination.

\*\*\*\*\* End of Advanced Syllabus \*\*\*\*\*