



# Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Qualifications



# Background

For many people the first thing that comes to mind when they think about Scotland is Bagpipes and Pipe Bands. SQA's National Progression Awards (NPAs) in Scottish Bagpipes and Scottish Pipe Band Drumming; and Professional Development Awards (PDAs) in Scottish Bagpipes cover the skills and knowledge needed to perform on Scottish Bagpipes or on Scottish Pipe Band Drums.

These awards were developed by SQA in partnership with the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board (PDQB). They are based on National Standards of design, teaching, assessment and certification. They enable a consistent and structured approach to the study of Scottish Bagpipes and/or Scottish Pipe Band Drumming in Scotland and internationally, and they will help maintain Scotland's central position of setting and maintaining high standards in this form of traditional music.

Entry to the NPA and PDA qualifications is at the discretion of the approved SQA Centre. Beginner Pipers would normally enter at NPA (SCQF Level 2) and progress through each level to SCQF Level 6. For Pipers there is also the opportunity to advance further to PDAs in Scottish Bagpipes (SCQF Levels 7 and 8). Beginner Pipe Band Drummers would normally enter at NPA (SCQF Level 3) and progress through each level to SCQF Level 6.



## NPA structure

There are five levels in Piping and four levels in Pipe Band Drumming.  
All levels incorporate both Solo Performance and Theory.

Award title	SCQF level	Units	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	2	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Practice Chanter	6	1
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Practice Chanter	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	3	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Practice Chanter	6	1
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Practice Chanter	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	4	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	5	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1
NPA Scottish Bagpipes	6	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1

Award title	SCQF level	Units	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	3	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	6	1
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	4	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	12	2
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	5	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	12	2
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1
NPA Scottish Pipe Band Drumming	6	Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Performance	12	2
		Scottish Pipe Band Drumming Music Theory	6	1

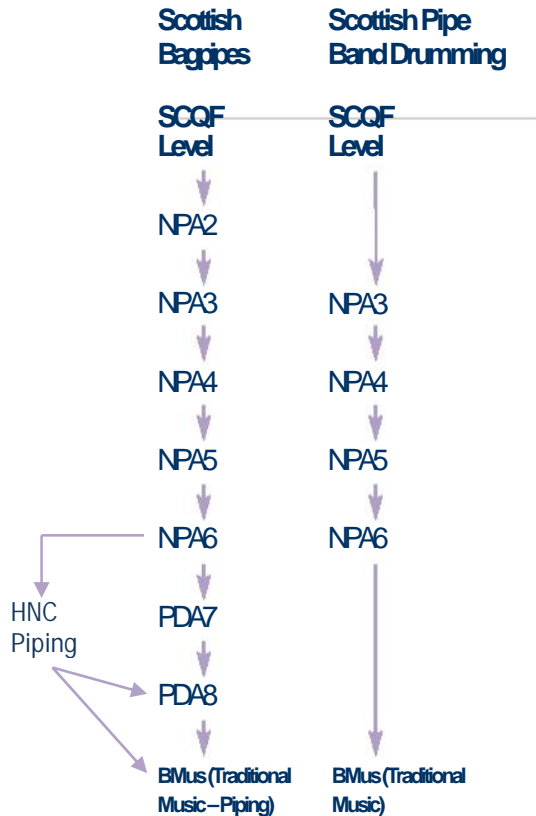
## PDA structure

There are two levels in Piping incorporating both Solo Performance and Theory.

Award title	SCQF level	Units	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
FDA Scottish Bagpipes	7	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1
FDA Scottish Bagpipes	8	Scottish Bagpipes Solo Performance: Bagpipes	12	2
		Scottish Bagpipes Theory: Bagpipes	6	1

'For Pipers there is the opportunity to progress to PDAs in Scottish Bagpipes (SCQF levels 7 and 8)!

The diagram shows the conventional progression routes through the qualifications from SCQF Level 2 to 8 and to degree:





## Further information

For more information about the NPAs and PDAs in Scottish Bagpipes and the NPAs in Scottish Pipe Band Drumming, please contact our qualifications team on 0845 213 5433 or the PDQB website - [www.pdqb.org](http://www.pdqb.org).



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