

**SASKATCHEWAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION  
LEVEL ONE SNARE CERTIFICATE (PRELIMINARY)**

**SYLLABUS**

**Practical**

Candidates must demonstrate competency in the following;

Rudiments

Students must demonstrate correct stick grip, describing what role arm, wrist and fingers play in correct execution. Must be able to play the following rudiments/rhythms with control and accuracy:

- single strokes
- double strokes
- paradiddles
- accented triplets
- continuous buzz roll
- five-stroke roll
- seven-stroke roll
- nine-stroke roll

Scores:

Two simple rhythmic beatings played from memory on the practice pad. The music is to be presented to the examiner and played in accordance with the written score. The music does not have to be written out by the candidate.

**Theory**

Candidates must be able to:

- Name all notes and note values (duration) and rests and rest values,
- Demonstrate the correct placement of notes on the uniline system,
- Demonstrate an understanding of what effect dotted and cut notes have on the note duration,
- Understand the purpose of a bar line, and
- Write out 4 bars from 2/4 and 6/8 time signatures by copying onto manuscript paper from set music provided.

**SASKATCHEWAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION  
LEVEL TWO SNARE CERTIFICATE (ELEMENTARY)**

**SYLLABUS**

**Maintenance**

Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of the following:

- Correct handling of a snare drum,
- Cleaning and drying the drum,
- How a snare drum is tuned, and what the controls are,
- Sharpen and flatten the drum pitch.

**Practical**

On the practice pad, candidates must demonstrate competency in the following:

Exercises:

- flams, drags and four-stroke ruffs
- Monotone exercises in simple time

Scores:

On the snare drum, five beatings are to be played from memory. At least three scores are to be in Simple Time. The music is to be presented to the examiner and played in accordance with the written score. The music does not have to be written out by the candidate.

**Theory**

Candidates must be able to:

- Understand simple time rhythms;
- Explain what a time signature is;
- Place bar lines according to a time signature;
- Identify the time signature from a piece of music presented by the Examiner;
- Write out all rudiments from the practical section; and
- Write out 8 bars of a Simple Time drum beating from memory. The beating is to be selected from those submitted by the candidate for the practical section.
- Be able to draw a note value table and understand relative note durations.

**SASKATCHEWAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION  
LEVEL THREE SNARE CERTIFICATE (JUNIOR)**

**SYLLABUS**

**Maintenance**

Candidates must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Changing top and bottom drum heads;
- Adjusting snare tension and height;
- Appropriate maintenance for moving parts of the snare drum;

Candidates should be prepared to write up to 250 words on any or a combination of the topics above.

**Practical**

On the Drum pad:

- Sight-reading of a set piece.
- flam and drag paradiddles
- Triplets and flam and drag triplets

On the Snare drum:

The candidates must submit one drum score for each of the following types of tune:

- 2 parts of a Slow Air
- 4 parts of a March in Simple Time
- 4 parts of a March in Compound Time
- 2 parts of a Strathspey
- 2 parts of a Reel

Candidates will be expected to make a reasonable attempt at tuning their drum.

**Theory**

Candidates must be able to:

- Write out 8 bars of a 6/8 drum score from memory;
- Understand simple/compound time rhythms using monotone exercises.
- Write out the first part of either a Strathspey or a Reel score from memory;
- Explain the purpose of a Leger Line;
- Demonstrate a complete knowledge of the bagpipe scale and note duration;
- Understand the placement of bar lines relative to the time signature; and
- Draw out the Great Staff and show the pitch of the tenor drone, bass drone, and all the notes in the bagpipe scale.

**SASKATCHEWAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION  
LEVEL FOUR SNARE CERTIFICATE (INTERMEDIATE)**

**SYLLABUS**

**Maintenance**

Candidates must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the following:

- knowledge of how to tune several drums together;
- knowledge of appropriate pitches and tuning for snare, tenor and bass drums;
- how drum pitch should relate to bagpipe pitch in a well-tuned band;
- knowledge of drum stick and head choices, and merits of each.

**Practical**

Candidates must demonstrate competency in the following:

On the Drum Pad

- The student must be able to sight-read exercises and drum scores provided by the examiner to a high degree of accuracy.
- The student must recognize and demonstrate appropriate ranges of tempo for various types of tunes.
- Be able to recognize the type and time signature of each tune played from a recording of bagpipe music, and to adlib rhythms along with the recording appropriate to each type of tune.

On the Snare Drum

The candidate must submit scores for the following tunes:

- Two competition type 2/4 Marches
- One 6/8 March of four parts
- Two competition type Strathspeys of four or more parts
- Two competition type Reels of four or more parts
- Two competition type Hornpipes of four or more parts
- Two competition type Jigs of four or more parts

Candidates will be expected to tune the drum accurately.

**Theory**

Candidates must demonstrate the ability to:

- Compose and write appropriate beatings for any tune type from the practical section;
- Compose and write mid-section scores to complement these scores;
- understand strathspey, reel and jig rhythms using monotone exercises,
- write an essay of 500 words