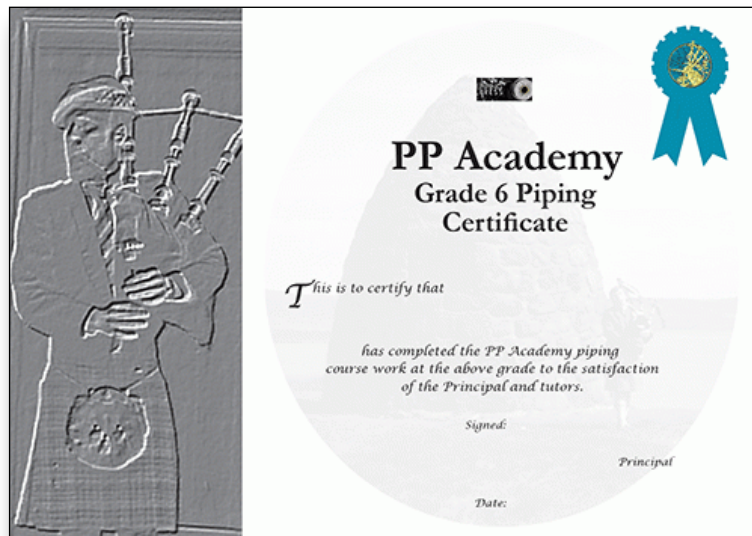


PIPING PRESS ACADEMY EXAMINATIONS



PIPING CERTIFICATES (BEGINNER)

Beginner Grade 1: This grade covers Lessons 1-5 inclusive from Bagpipe Tutor 1. It is intended to ensure that a student is making a correct start. Basic errors such as bent fingers, incorrect fingering of notes or persistent crossing noises must be avoided. The student will be expected to name the notes on the scale and finger accurately with emphasis on the exercises in Lessons 4 & 5 (G gracenotes).

Beginner Grade 2: This certificate covers Lessons 1-9 inclusive in Bagpipe Tutor 1. G, D & E gracenotes and the D throw are the main additional playing techniques required. The student will be asked about hemping and drying the practice chanter and reed.

Beginner Grade 3: This grade covers Lessons 1-11. Amazing Grace or an equivalent slow air must be played from memory on the practice chanter. Correct fingering and execution of all doublings (Lesson 11) will be expected.

Beginner Grade 4: This certificate is for Lessons 1-13 and means the candidate will be able to play all doublings and the doublings exercise in Lesson 12 efficiently and at a reasonable tempo. The candidate will also be able to perform on the practice chanter High Road to Gairloch, or its equivalent, from memory.

Beginner Grade 5: This grade covers Lessons 1-15. The birl and the third tune, Pulling Bracken or equivalent (must contain birls), are the main new skills expected for this certificate. The tune must be played from memory on the practice chanter and the birl and gracenote birl should be played from every note on the scale.

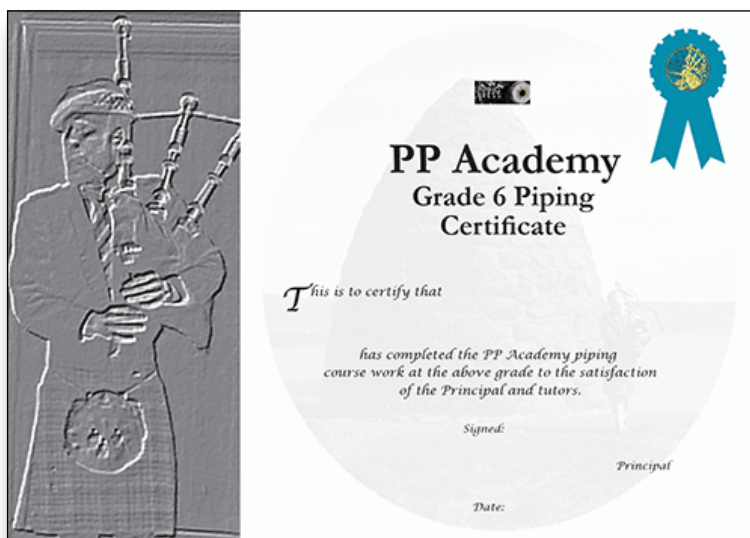
Beginner Grade 6: The student will perform Amazing Grace or a slow air equivalent cleanly and with control on the bagpipe.

Beginner Grade 7: The student will perform Amazing Grace and High Road to Gairloch or their equivalents on the bagpipe.

Beginner Grade 8: This certificate covers Lessons 1-17 and the student will be expected to be thoroughly proficient in all technique and tunes to this stage and also to play from memory on the bagpipe the Green Hills of Tyrol or equivalent. The student may be asked to perform any exercise or tune from an earlier lesson.

Beginner Grade 9: This certificate covers Lessons 1-18 and the student will be expected to be thoroughly proficient in all technique and tunes to this stage and also to play from memory on the bagpipe Mhairi's Wedding or equivalent. The student may be asked to perform any exercise or tune from an earlier lesson.

Beginner Grade 10: This grade covers Lessons 1-20 from Bagpipe Tutor 1. Exercises from all lessons to be played on the practice chanter and all tunes on the pipes as requested by the examiner. The bagpipe should be reasonably well set though tuning assistance is permitted.



PIPING CERTIFICATES

Grade 1: This grade covers Lessons 1-4 from Bagpipe Tutor 2, Atholl Highlanders and Farquhar MacRae or their equivalents to be played on the pipes. The bagpipe should be reasonably well set, though tuning assistance is permitted. Questions concerning department and the setting of reeds will be asked. In addition to earlier tunes in Tutor 2, the student may also be tested on any tune from Bagpipe Tutor 1 or its equivalent.

Grade 2: This covers Lesson 5 & 6 in Bagpipe Tutor 2. The student will be able to play their first strathspey and reel competently on the bagpipe and answer theory questions regarding the rhythm and structure of this type of tune. In addition to earlier tunes in Bagpipe Tutor 2, the student may also be tested on any tune from Bagpipe Tutor 1 or its equivalent. The student will be asked about how to keep a bagpipe airtight and comfortable (drone cords distances, blowstick length, seasoning bag, hemping).

Grade 3: This covers Lesson 7 & 8 in Bagpipe Tutor 2. The student will be able to play their first hornpipe and jig competently on the bagpipe and answer theory questions regarding the rhythm and structure of these types of tune. In addition to earlier tunes in Tutor 2, the student may also be tested on any tune from Bagpipe Tutor 1 or its equivalent.

Grade 4: This covers Lessons 9-11 inclusive with questions asked on time signatures, on and off beats, a system of tuning, and bagpipe maintenance. The candidate will be expected to demonstrate steady blowing and a well maintained instrument whilst playing a slow air or other suitable tune.

Grade 5: This grade covers Lessons 1 to 13 in Bagpipe Tutor 2 and the student will be expected to play Miss Delicia Chisholm or similar four parted 2/4 march on the bagpipe, cleanly, accurately, with steady rhythm and tempo and good expression. In addition to earlier tunes in Tutor 2, the student may also be tested on any tune from Bagpipe Tutor 1 or its equivalent.

Grade 6: This grade covers Lessons 1 to 15 in Bagpipe Tutor 2 and the student will be expected to play Caledonian Canal or similar four-parted strathspey on the bagpipe, cleanly, accurately, with steady rhythm and tempo and good expression. In addition to earlier tunes in Tutor 2, the student may be tested on any tune from Bagpipe Tutor 1 or its equivalent.

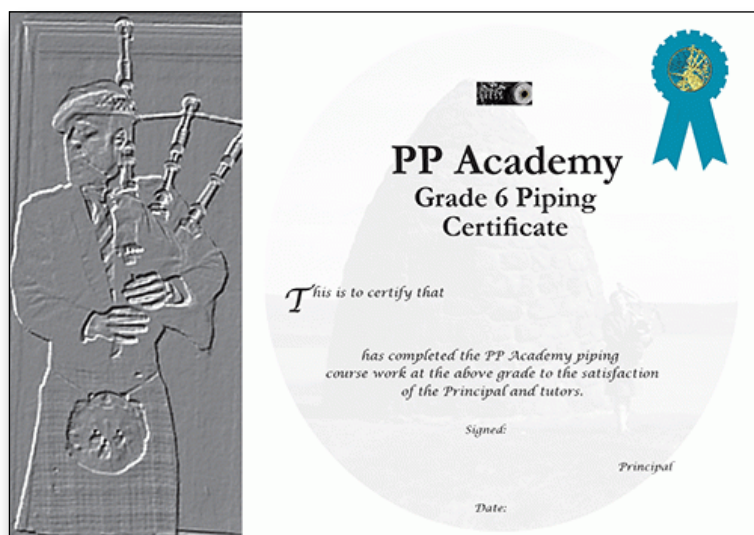
Grade 7: This grade covers Lessons 1 to 17 in Bagpipe Tutor 2 and the student will be expected to play Thomson's Dirk or similar four parted reel on the bagpipe, cleanly, accurately, with steady rhythm and tempo and good expression. In addition to earlier tunes in Tutor 2, the student may be tested on any tune from Bagpipe Tutor 1 or its equivalent.

Grade 8: This grade covers Lessons 1 to 20 in Bagpipe Tutor 2 and the student will be expected to play Jolly Beggarman and Paddy's Leather Breeches or similar four-parted tunes on the bagpipe, cleanly, accurately, with steady rhythm and tempo and good expression. In addition to earlier tunes in Tutor 2, the student may be tested on any tune from Tutor 1 or its equivalent.

Grade 9: The candidate will be able to play all tunes and exercises from Tutors 1 & 2 or their equivalent plus one full Piobaireachd from Tutor 3 on the bagpipe

Grade 10: The candidate will be able to play all tunes and exercises from Tutors 1 & 2 or their equivalent plus two full Piobaireachd or parts thereof from Tutor 3 on the bagpipe.

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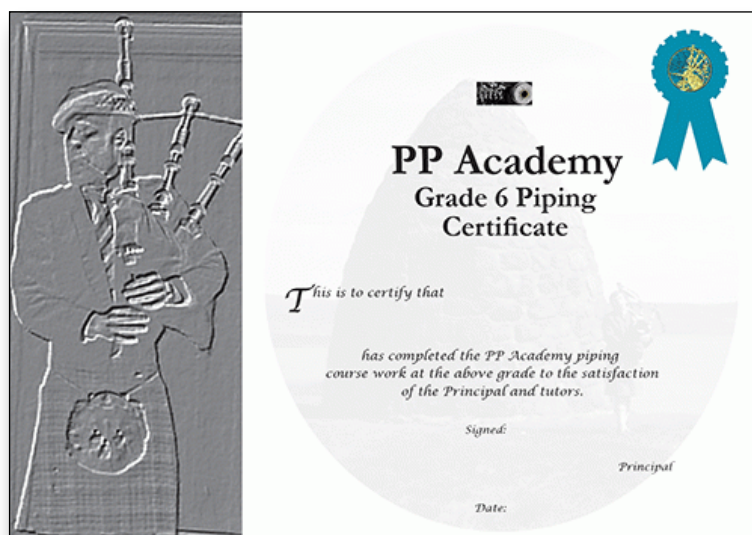


PIPING CERTIFICATES (INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED & GRADUATE)

Intermediate Certificate: The candidate will be able to play on the bagpipe **two** competition MSRs, **two** competition Hornpipes & Jigs and **two** piobaireachd containing taorluath and crunluath movements. Fingering will be accurate and all tunes will be played at a steady tempo for this level and with reasonable musical flow. The bagpipe must be tuned by the candidate to a good standard to the satisfaction of the examiner. Tunes, or parts thereof, selected by the examiner.

Advanced Certificate: The candidate will be able to play on the bagpipe **four** competition MSRs, **four** competition Hornpipes & Jigs and **four** piobaireachd containing taorluath and crunluath movements. Fingering will be accurate and all tunes will be played at an appropriate tempo for this level and with good musical flow. The bagpipe must be tuned by the candidate to a good standard to the satisfaction of the examiner. Tunes, or parts thereof, selected by the examiner.

Graduate Certificate: The candidate will be able to play on the bagpipe **six** competition MSRs, **six** competition Hornpipes & Jigs and **six** piobaireachd containing taorluath and crunluath movements. Fingering will be very accurate and all tunes will be played at a professional tempo for this level and with excellent musical flow. The bagpipe must be tuned by the candidate to a very good standard to the satisfaction of the examiner. Tunes, or parts thereof, selected by the examiner.



PIOBAIREACHD CERTIFICATES

Grade 1 Piobaireachd: This covers Lessons 1 & 2 in Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Ability to finger the *dre* and *edre* accurately is paramount, and the ground and ground doubling of the Wee Spree, or similar, should be played on the practice chanter from memory.

Grade 2 Piobaireachd: This covers Lessons 1-4 in Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Ability to finger the *crunluath* accurately and at reasonable speed is fundamental to gaining this award. The *suibhal* and triplet of the Wee Spree, or similar, to be played on the practice chanter from memory.

Grade 3 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-5 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Finger accurately the *crunluath* variation of the Wee Spree, or similar, on the practice chanter and play the whole tune competently from memory on the bagpipe. The bagpipe should be fairly well set. Candidates may be questioned or asked to play on the practice chanter, excerpts from Lessons 1–5.

Grade 4 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-7 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Students may be asked about the phrase patterns of the Wee Spree and Clan Campbell's Gathering, or similar. They may be asked to demonstrate any fingering technique from Lessons 1-7. On the practice chanter the successful candidate will play from memory the *urlar*, *urlar* doubling and Variation 1 of Clan Campbell's Gathering, or similar. On the bagpipe the candidate will play the Wee Spree, or similar, in full.

Grade 5 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-9 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Students may be asked about the phrase patterns of the Wee Spree and Clan Campbell's Gathering. They may be asked to demonstrate any fingering technique from Lessons 1-9. The successful candidate will play from memory the *taorluath* of Clan Campbell's Gathering, or similar, on the practice chanter. They will play one full piobaireachd with *taorluath* and *crunluath* variations on the bagpipe.

Grade 6 Piobaireachd; Lessons 1-10 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Students will play from memory the whole of Clan Campbell's Gathering, or similar, accurately on a well set bagpipe. Students will be asked history questions from Lesson 10. Students may be asked questions, or asked to demonstrate movements or parts of the Wee Spree, , or similar, from earlier lessons.

Grade 7 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-12 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Students will play accurately on the practice chanter the *hiharin* and double echo movements. Students will be asked about rhythm in piobaireachd. Candidates will play from memory the ground of the Boat Tune, or similar, on the practice chanter. Students may be asked questions or asked to demonstrate movements or parts of tunes from earlier lessons. They will be prepared to play two full tunes on the bagpipe

Grade 8 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-15 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Students will play accurately on the practice chanter the dithis, taorluath and crunluath variations from the Boat Tune, or similar. Students may be asked questions, or asked to demonstrate movements or parts of tunes, from earlier lessons. They will be prepared to play two full tunes, or parts thereof, on the bagpipe

Grade 9 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-16 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Students will play accurately on a well set bagpipe the whole of the Boat Tune, or similar, from memory. Students will be asked questions on piobaireachd classification as per Lesson 16. Students may be asked questions, or asked to demonstrate movements or parts of tunes, from earlier lessons. They will be prepared to play two other full tunes, or parts thereof, on the bagpipe.

Grade 10 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-18 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Students will demonstrate the *dare* movement from every note on the scale. They will also play from memory the ground of Duncan MacRae of Kintail, or similar, on the practice chanter. Students will be asked basic canntaireachd questions as per Lesson 17. They will be prepared to play three other full tunes, or parts thereof, on the bagpipe.

Grade 11 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-19 from Bagpipe Tutor 3 or equivalent. Candidates will play the whole of Duncan MacRae of Kintail's Lament on a well-tuned bagpipe. They will also demonstrate, on the bagpipe, variations – in particular the taorluath and crunluath variations – from other tunes in Bagpipe Tutor Book 3. They will be prepared to play three other full tunes, or parts thereof, on the bagpipe.

Grade 12 Piobaireachd: Lessons 1-20 from Bagpipe Tutor Book 3 or equivalent. Candidates will be asked to play either the Wee Spree, Clan Campbell's Gathering, the Boat Tune or Duncan MacRae of Kintail's Lament, or parts thereof, on a well tuned bagpipe. Similar tunes acceptable. The candidate can be asked questions on canntaireachd, rhythm in piobaireachd, classification and history as contained in Bagpipe Tutor Book 3. They will be asked to demonstrate some or all piobaireachd finger movements on the practice chanter.