

PDQB Level 4 – Theory

Before beginning the Level 4 Course students should ensure they have a sound knowledge of the topics covered in the Level 2 & 3 Courses including:

- How Pitch is represented in music notation
- Simple Notes and the Table of Relative Note Values
- Lengthening and Shortening notes (Dots and Cuts)
- Laying out the Stave
- Rests
- The Great Staff, Clefs and the Compass of the Bagpipe
- Kinds of Time and Simple Time Signatures

Section 1 – Understanding Simple and Compound Values

Simple Note Values are the notes laid out on our table of relative note values and are defined as notes that can be divided in 2 shorter Simple notes. Eg.



Or For Rests:



A Compound note values is defined as one that divides into 3 equal simple notes. Eg.



Or for Rests



Section 2 – Compound Time Signatures

As the name suggests the beat note in a compound time tune is a compound note value, so it can be divided equally by 3 and is a dotted note.

Compound time signatures need to be treated differently to Simple Time Signatures.

The number of beats in the bars is found by dividing the top figure by 3.

Here are the Compound Time Signatures we need to know:



Each bar consists of 6 eighth notes or 6 quavers.

The number of beats is the 6 divided by 3 to give us 2 beats to the bar.

So each beat is 3 quavers long so the equivalent value of a dotted crotchet.



Each bar consists of 9 eighth notes or 9 quavers.

The number of beats is the 9 divided by 3 to give us 3 beats to the bar.

So each beat is 3 quavers long so the equivalent value of a dotted crotchet.



Each bar consists of 12 eighth notes or 12 quavers.

The number of beats is the 12 divided by 3 to give us 4 beats to the bar.

So each beat is 3 quavers long so the equivalent value of a dotted crotchet.

Section 4 – Notation of Bagpipe Music

The SCQF Level 4 Exam requires you to be able to notate all the embellishments required for the practical part of this level so refer to the Exercise sheet and practice writing these out.

You will be asked to write music notation from memory using correct Time Signatures, Clefs and Bar Lines for one part (eight bars) of one of the simple time tunes you submit in your practical.

Practise these and compare your results with the original score until your music writing is fully accurate.