



Single Handed Casting

Advanced Status

Syllabus

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APGAI Ireland – Syllabus for the Advanced Qualification in Single Handed Casting

A. Background information

The following notes are provided as a guide to those members preparing to take APGAI Ireland's Advanced Level Qualification in Single Handed Casting. It must be noted that the Advanced Level Qualification is **not** available as a stand-alone competence.

This qualification is available **only** to those members of APGAI Ireland who are already recognised as a Qualified-Level Instructor within the Association. Only in exceptional circumstances, and at the sole discretion of the APGAI Ireland Management Committee, will any candidate be exempt from this requirement.

B. Introduction

Candidates will be examined on their ability as an **Advanced Professional Game Angling**

Instructor in 'Advanced Single Handed Casting'. In order to be successful at this level, an instructor must be able to demonstrate an exceptional breadth and depth of knowledge in Single Handed Casting techniques, the common faults associated with these and how to correct them. Above all, the Assessors will seek the highest levels of skills in teaching Single Handed Casting. The Single Handed Casting Assessment consists of four parts:

Part 1

Written Examination

Written questions comprising multiple-choice questions and others that require short sentence type answers. **(Duration 30 minutes)**

Part 2

Practical Assessment in Single Handed Casting

Candidates will be required to **explain & demonstrate** their ability to perform all of the casts and techniques listed below as well as to **analyse and correct** the common faults associated with them. **(Duration 1.5 hours)**

Part 3

Knots, Entomology and General Theory

The candidate will be asked demonstrate several (but not all) of the commonly used knots listed in Section 10 below, to explain basic entomology as per Section 12 below and to answer questions on General Theory listed in Section 13 below. **(Duration 30 minutes)**

Part 4

Teaching Presentation

The candidate will be required to deliver a single session tailored to an Advanced Level client base. Assessors will look for:

- A detailed Lesson Plan
- An In-depth subject knowledge
- Enthusiastic & interesting teaching techniques
- Clear and concise explanations
- Overall presentation **(Duration 30 minutes)**

The entire assessment will therefore last for 3 hours including the time allowed for setting up, knots and theory etc.

Equipment to be used during the Assessment:

- Rod: maximum length 9 ft
- Line: maximum weight AFTM #7
- Leader: minimum length 8 ft (with bright yarn attached)
- Candidates must wear head and eye protection (i.e. cap and glasses) at all times during the assessment

The Assessment:

- The candidate will be asked to explain and demonstrate the mechanics of each cast and its uses.
- The candidate must also be able to explain and demonstrate the faults associated with each cast and be able to explain and demonstrate the correction of these faults.
- The candidate must have a good understanding of the tackle being used. Line profiles must be clearly understood and their uses explained.

During the Practical Assessment the following will apply:

- The test may be conducted on grass or water.
- Casting loop size to be no wider than 30 inches between top and bottom leg unless requested otherwise by the Assessors.
- Spey cast change of direction shall be not less than 45°

- Side casts to be performed at or below 45° from the horizontal.
- All roll casts must unroll above the water/grass.
- Three attempts will be given when attempting each cast.
- A piece of bright wool shall be attached to the leader.
- Casting distances are from the caster's front foot to the fly.

N.B.

- Casts **OF** means no shooting line or hauling is allowed.
- Casts specified **TO** a distance means you may shoot line **TO** that distance.
- Safe practice when teaching and guiding must be fully understood and explained.
- Candidates must be properly attired (see Workshop Manual)

The Practical Assessment in Single Handed Casting:

- During the assessment, the Assessors will introduce a fibre-glass or split cane rod.
- During the assessment the Assessors will supply a sinking poly leader to assess the candidate's ability to demonstrate and teach with sinking lines
- In the Double Haul Assessment, the Assessors will introduce a tip action rod with a shooting head in order to assess the candidate's ability to demonstrate and teach the use of shooting heads

1. OVERHEAD CAST (must be performed in the vertical plane)

- Demonstrate a minimum of six overhead casts (right and left hand) **OF** 45 feet.
- From the seated position demonstrate an overhead cast **OF** 45 feet.
- Explain and demonstrate, from the seated position, a roll cast pick up **OF** 45 feet.
- Loops to be tight and parallel with no tailing loops on front or back.
- Leader must straighten.
- Demonstrate an overhead cast **OF** 45 feet taking wind conditions into account, i.e. side-wind (left and right), tail and head wind.
- False cast continuously at a distance **OF** 45 feet. Cast tight/open loops on command.
- Explain and demonstrate a cast **OF** 45 feet shooting line **TO** 55 feet on command.
- The leader must straighten.
- During a cast **OF** 45 feet, explain and demonstrate a tailing loop on the forward/back cast on command.
- Explain and demonstrate the main causes of tailing loops and how to correct them.
- Explain and demonstrate a cast **OF** 45 feet to a target (must be within 15 inches of target and leader must straighten.)
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

2. PRESENTATION CAST

- Explain and demonstrate a cast **OF** 45 feet to a target (must be within 15 inches of target).
- Leader must straighten.
- Demonstrate good loop formation.
- Demonstrate good presentation
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

3. SIDE CAST OF 45 FEET

- Explain and demonstrate a side cast to the right side.

- Explain and demonstrate a side cast to the left side.
- Explain and demonstrate a side cast to the right side shooting **TO** 55 feet.
- Explain and demonstrate a side cast to the left side shooting **TO** 55 feet
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

Assessors will add a sinking poly leader to candidates fly line

- Explain and demonstrate methods of casting a sinking line

A split cane or fibreglass rod with fly line and leader will be introduced to the candidate.

- Explain and demonstrate the different techniques required to make a cast of 45 feet with this type of outfit
- Explain and demonstrate a cast **TO** 55 feet.

4. ROLL CAST

- Explain and demonstrate a basic static roll cast, over right shoulder **OF** 45 feet.
- Pay particular attention to loop shape.
- Leader must straighten.
- Explain and demonstrate a basic static roll cast, over left shoulder, **OF** 45 feet.
- Pay particular attention to loop shape.
- Leader must straighten.
- Explain and demonstrate wide and narrow loop roll casts.
- Explain and demonstrate a jump roll **OF** 45 feet shooting **TO** 55 feet (may use a haul).
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

5. MEND CASTS OF 45 FEET

- Explain and demonstrate an aerial mend around a target at 20 feet and 30 feet (right and left of target).
- Leader must straighten on completion of cast.
- Reach cast to the right to a target at a distance **OF** 45 feet.
- Reach cast to the left to a target at a distance **OF** 45 feet.
- The candidate should be able to slip line on reach casts.
- Leader must straighten.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

6. SLACK LINE CASTS OF 45 FEET

- Explain and demonstrate a Wiggle Cast, both loose and tight. (Wide wiggles are 30 inches plus and tight wiggles are less than 30 inches)
- Leader must straighten.
- Explain and demonstrate Parachute/Pile cast.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

7. BELGIAN CAST

- Explain and demonstrate a Belgian Cast **OF** 45 feet off the preferred shoulder
- Perform a Belgian Cast shooting line **TO** 55 feet
- Leader must straighten on completion of cast
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

8. DOUBLE HAUL

- Explain and demonstrate continuous double haul casting showing good timing and

technique, using a closed stance.

- Explain and demonstrate continuous double haul casting showing good timing and technique using an open stance.
- Perform a cast **OF** 55 feet.
- Single haul: demonstrate a back cast and forward cast **OF** 55 feet.
- Distance cast: using a double haul technique, cast **TO** a minimum distance of 80 feet. Leader must straighten.
- Distance cast to a minimum of 70 feet over opposite shoulder using double haul. Leader must straighten.
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the cast and be able to teach it

Assessors will introduce a fast action rod with shooting head (sink rate 3)

Explain and demonstrate a distance cast using a shooting head.

Candidate will be expected to explain different types of running line

Candidate will be expected to understand head length, over-lining and under-lining.

9. SPEY CASTS OF 45 FEET

- Explain and demonstrate a Single Spey on the left bank with a change of 45°
- Explain and demonstrate a Single Spey on the left bank with a change of 90°
- Explain and demonstrate a Single Spey on the right bank with a change of 45°
- Explain and demonstrate a Single Spey on the right bank with a change of 90°
- Explain and demonstrate a Double Spey on the left bank with a change of 45°
- Explain and demonstrate a Double Spey on the left bank with a change of 90°
- Explain and demonstrate a Double Spey on the right bank with a change of 45°
- Explain and demonstrate a Double Spey on the Right bank with a change of 90°
- Explain and demonstrate a Snake roll on both sides with a change of 45° and 90°
- Explain and demonstrate a Snap T cast on both banks with a change of 45° and 90°
- Explain and demonstrate Circle cast on both banks with a change of 45° and 90°
- Give reasons for selecting to execute any of the Spey casts above
- Understand the uses and mechanics of the casts and be able to teach them

9. FAULT RECOGNITION, CAUSES AND CORRECTIONS

- During the Practical Assessment session the candidate will be asked to identify and demonstrate faults related to each cast and should be able to explain their cause and appropriate correction.

10. KNOTS

The candidate should be able to tie the following knots and explain their use:

- Double (Full) blood
- Half-blood/Clinch knot
- Tucked Half-blood/Improved Clinch knot
- Double Grinner
- Single Grinner
- Perfection loop
- Surgeon's knot, Surgeon's loop.
- Turle knot
- Nail knot
- Needle knot
- Jansik Special

11. PLAYING, LANDING AND RELEASING FISH

- The candidate should be able to explain and demonstrate the strike, lift, playing, correct landing and safe release of fish.

12. ENTOMOLOGY

- Name the five main groups of insects and explain their life cycles.
- Name a suitable artificial fly, nymph, pupa or spinner to imitate these stages.

13. THEORY

Explain and recommend suitable equipment (rod, reel and line) for a beginner in each of the disciplines below:

- Dry fly-fishing
- Wet fly-fishing
- Nymph fishing
- Bank fishing
- Boat fishing
- Spinning and bait fishing
- Fly-fishing for various species e.g. trout, pike, saltwater etc.

14. FISHING LAW & ETIQUETTE

- The candidate should be able to explain the rules and regulations as they relate to fishing in Ireland (North and South)
- Explain proper etiquette in relation to both river and lough fishing.

15. SAFETY

- Explain Safe Practices when teaching and guiding on rivers and loughs
- Explain the dangers and precautions for Weil's Disease, Tetanus and other water-borne hazards

READING LIST:

The following list, which is not in any particular order, will help you broaden your perspective. It is not possible to emphasise any particular one. Availability alone may be a substantial limitation as some titles are only available second-hand or through Public Libraries. You should focus on those that appeal most to you and appear most helpful.

Title	Author	Publisher
Master the Cast	George V. Roberts Jr.	McGraw-Hill
Nature of Flycasting	Jason Borger	Shadow Caster Press
The Cast	Ed Jaworowaski	Swan Hill Press
Troubleshooting the Cast	Ed Jaworowaski	Stackpole Books
Flycasting Accuracy	Joan Wulff	The Lyons Press

The Essence of Fly Casting	Mel Krieger	Countryman
Flycasting Handbook	Maculey Lord	The Lyons Press
Advanced Fly Casting	Lefty Kreh	The Lyons Press
The Technology of Fly Rods	Don Philips	Frank Amato Publications Inc
Longer Fly Casting	Lefty Kreh	Lyons & Burford
Inshore Flyfishing	Lou Tabory	Lyons & Burford
Spey Casting	Gawesworth	Stackpole Books
Fish On	Floyd Frankie	The Derrydale Press
Two Handed Fly Casting	Al Buhr	Frank Amato Publications Inc
The Pocket Guide to Fishing Knots	Peter Owen	Merlin Unwin Books
Matching the Hatch	Pat O'Reilly	Swan Hill Press
Modern Fly Lines	Bruce Richards	Odysseus Editions Inc
Fly Fishing in Ireland	Peter O'Reilly	Merlin Unwin Books