



Fly Dressing

Advanced Status

Syllabus

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APGAI Ireland – Syllabus for the Advanced Qualification in Fly Dressing

A. Background information

The following notes are provided as a guide to those members preparing to take APGAI Ireland's Advanced Level Qualification in Fly Dressing. 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 discretion of the APGAI Ireland 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 Fly Dressing'**. In order to be successful at this level, an instructor must be able to demonstrate an exceptional breadth and depth of knowledge in fly dressing techniques, materials and of the history of the craft. Above all, the Assessors will seek the highest levels of skills in teaching fly dressing. The fly dressing Assessment consists of four parts:

Part 1

Written examinations

Written questions comprising multiple-choice questions and others that require short sentence type answers.

(Duration 30 minutes)

Part 2

Practical assessment in fly dressing

Candidates will be required to **explain & demonstrate** their ability to tie several (**but not all**) of the **Compulsory Flies** listed below as well as to **explain & demonstrate** any of the **Core Techniques** listed below.

(Duration 1.5 hours)

Part 3

Material and insect identification

The candidate will be asked identify a set of materials commonly used in fly dressing and also a number of insects encountered frequently whilst fly fishing.

(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 and the identification of materials and insects etc.

C. The Practical Assessment

1. Presentation flies & portfolios:

The candidate will be required to supply the following at least 21 days prior to examination:

- A presentation portfolio, which could be used for a lecture or demonstration to a Club or similar group of knowledgeable fly dressers.
- Two identical examples of each of the patterns listed in the attached table of flies.
- A list of techniques and materials used in dressing each of the compulsory patterns. Hand written, typed or electronic format is acceptable but the candidate should bring hard copies to the assessment for use by the assessors during the practical assessment.
- A lesson plan for the presentation of a given subject related to game angling.

The presentation portfolio, lesson plan and listed tying techniques together with the sample fly patterns will be viewed by the assessors outside of the 3 hour assessment period to allow the maximum time for the practical assessment and associated identification elements.

2. Practical assessment

Candidates may wish to bring with them all the necessary materials (substitute materials for rarer items are acceptable), tools and equipment to take part in the assessment although APGAI Ireland will provide a back-up supply of materials. Assessors will note the candidate's organisational and set-up skills.

Candidates should be aware that this assessment is intended to determine their competence and ability to dress **any** of the compulsory flies listed below. In practice, they will be asked to tie at least two of these during the assessment as well as demonstrating some of the listed Core Techniques. The techniques upon which they will be assessed will be those contained within the listed flies. The candidate will be assessed upon the following:

- Organisation and setup
- Entomological identification
- Fly-tying material identification
- Practical tying assessment
- Teaching skills

D. Presentation flies:

The candidate is required provide **2 identical copies of each of the following patterns** and submit them to the Assessor Team at least **21 days prior to the assessment**. Failure to provide presentation flies may lead to the assessment being cancelled.

Fly No.	Pattern	Type
1.	Daddy Long Legs	Trout Dry Fly
2.	Black Goldfinch	Built-wing Salmon Fly
3.	Raymond	Trout Wet Fly
4.	Cone Head Willie Gunn	Salmon Fly
5.	Pheasant Tail Nymph (Sawyer original)	Trout Nymph
6.	Invicta	Trout Wet Fly
7.	Collie Dog	Salmon Tube Fly
8.	Claret Bumble	Trout Wet Fly
9.	Mosely Mayfly	Trout Dry Fly
10.	An Innovative Fly of Your Choice	Any Type

Compulsory Pattern Descriptions:

1. Daddy Long Legs

Hook: Size 10
 Silk: Primrose Yellow

Body: Natural raffia
Rib: Oval gold tinsel or wire
Legs: Three pairs of two-strand cock pheasant centre tail fibres, knotted
Hackle: Furnace or natural red game cock
Wing: Tips of furnace or natural red game cock

2. Black Goldfinch

Hook: Single salmon iron, size 4 - 8
Silk: Black
Tag: Fine round silver tinsel and orange floss
Tail: Golden Pheasant topping and Indian Crow sub
Butt: Black ostrich
Body: Black floss
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Hackle: Claret cock from second turn of the rib (from the rear)
Throat: Blue jay
Wing: Married slips of yellow and red swan or goose, with a topping over
(If the assessors choose this pattern to be assessed, candidates will be advised to bring the pre-tied body etc., ready for attachment of the married wing, which will be constructed and tied in during the assessment)

3. Raymond

Hook: Size 10
Silk: Brown
Tail: Golden pheasant tippets
Body: Pale golden olive seal's fur
Rib: Oval gold tinsel
Hackle: Scarlet cock palmered, with blue jay at the throat
Wing: Hen Pheasant secondary with married slips of red and yellow swan (or goose) between them

4. Willie Gunn Cone-Head Tube

Tube: 0.75" or 20mm plastic tube
Silk: Black
Tag: Fine flat or oval gold tinsel
Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel
Body: Black floss
Wing: One third orange, one third yellow bucktail, tied 360° under one third black bucktail
Head: Gold cone-head

5. Pheasant Tail Nymph

Hook: Size 12 or 14
Silk: None: Fine copper wire
Tail: Pheasant tail fibres
Body: Pheasant tail fibres
Rib: Fine copper tinsel
Thorax: Copper wire
Cover: Pheasant tail fibres

6. Invicta

Hook: Size 10/12
Silk: Brown or black
Rib: Oval gold tinsel
Tail: Golden pheasant crest
Body: Yellow seal's fur
Hackle: Light Red game, palmered
Throat: Blue jay beard
Wing: Hen pheasant centre tail

7. Collie Dog

Silk: Black
Body: 0.75" or 20mm plastic tube with flat silver Mylar over
Wing: Long black goat hair (2" – 4" or 50mm – 100mm)
Hackle: Red hackle fibres or red bucktail

8. Claret Bumble

Hook: Size 10
Silk: Black
Tail: Golden pheasant tippetts
Rib: Oval gold tinsel
Body: Claret seal's fur
Hackle: Claret cock and black cock, palmered together
Front: Blue jay, cloaked 360°

9. Mosely Mayfly

Hook: Size 8 or 10
Silk: Brown
Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel
Tail: 3 or 4 cock pheasant centre tail fibres
Body: Hare's ear and yellow seal's fur mixed equally
Hackle: At shoulder only, tied 180° on top: medium olive cock, blue dun cock with pink cock wound through

E. Tools

Candidates will be expected to have a sound knowledge of and may be asked to demonstrate the use of the following tools:

Vices and attachments associated with them:

- Lever actions
- Rotary types
- Materials Spring
- Twin Screw
- Tube fly attachments (needles etc.)
- Hand vice
- Pin vice
- Gallows tool
- Bobbin cradle

Bobbin holders

- Ceramic
- Non-ceramic
- Glass
- Rite Bobbin (adjustable)
- Spring (Nor-vice type)

Scissors

- Straight
- Curved
- Serrated
- Ophthalmic Scissor Snips

Hair stackers

- Fixed Hair stacker
- Adjustable Stackers

Hair shapers

- Cylindrical
- Elliptical
- Hackle guard
- Hackle folder (doubler)
- Hackle pliers

Dubbing tools

- Dubbing whirl
- Dubbing hook
- Dubbing twister
- Petitjean Magic Tool
- Dubbing rake

Whip finish tools

- Thompson
- Matarelli
- Half hitch tool
- Hand whip finish

Winging tools

- Pliers
- Cutters
- Burners

F. Advanced Core Techniques

1. Wings and winging techniques

The candidate should be familiar with the following styles of wings and winging techniques and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Slip wings dry
- Slip wings wet
- Rolled wings
- Folded wings
- No hackle wings (Comparadun)
- Cut wings
- Burnt wings
- Fan wings
- Wonder wings
- Poly yarn wings
- Hair wings
- Matuka wings
- Loop wings
- Streamer wings
- Templedog wings
- Married wings

2. Dubbing

The candidate should be familiar with the following styles of dubbing techniques and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Conventional dubbing method (finger and thumb twist)
- Dubbing loop (use of dubbing whirl)
- Split-thread dubbing loop
- Misting/Touch dubbing
- Hair Wire twist (dubbing brush effect)

3. Hackles

The candidate should be familiar with the following styles of hackling techniques and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Tying-in techniques
- Wet fly
- Dry fly
- Schlappen
- Genetic
- Filoplume
- Non-genetic (Indian or Chinese)
- Doubled (stroked or use of scissors)
- Furled hackles
- Collar hackles

- Beard hackles
- Twin hackles
- Stripped hackles
- Hair hackles (dubbing loop method)

4. Bodies

The candidate should be familiar with the following styles of fly bodies and materials and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Larva lace
- Ultra lace
- Swannundaze/V-Rib
- Flexifloss
- Nymph skin
- Sili-skin
- Floss
- Fur
- Silk
- Wire
- Stripped peacock quill
- Woven (wire and fabric)
- Chenille
- Ultra chenille
- Tube fly

Detached bodies

- Woven
- Pre-made (commercial)
- Furled
- Yarn
- Plaited/crocheted
- Single feather extended body (Mayfly for example)
- Copydex

5. Weighting flies

The candidate should be familiar with the following materials for weighting flies and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Lead (Wire, square, strip or sheet)
- Other metal wires, for example Brass, Copper etc.
- Pre-formed weight, for example Beads, Cone heads etc.

Weighted Heads

- Bead head
- Cone head
- Popper head
- Shaped head – Deer Hair (Dahlberg Diver, Muddler Minnow)
- Epoxy head
- Dumb-bell eyes
- Tube fly turbo disc

6. Legs

The candidate should be familiar with the following techniques and materials for adding legs to flies and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Goose biots
- Knotted Pheasant Tail (use of tool)
- Knotted bucktail (frogs and crabs)
- Quill legs
- Rubber legs (Girdle Bug)

7. Methods of floating and suspending flies

The candidate should be familiar with the following techniques and materials for floating and suspending flies and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Plastazote
- Polypropylene wings/posts
- Closed cell foam
- Open cell foam
- EPS ball (nylon stocking)
- Booby eyes
- Deer hair
- CDC

8. Butts and tags

The candidate should be familiar with the following techniques and materials for adding butts and tags to flies and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

- Ostrich herl butt
- Wool butt
- Floss tag
- Tucked tag
- Tinsel tag
- Tags on double and treble hooks

9. Hairs

The candidate should be familiar with the following techniques for using various hairs and should be prepared to explain and demonstrate their use if required:

Deer hair

- Spinning
- Stacking
- Compressing

Other types of hair

- Bear
- Goat
- Squirrel
- Bucktail
- Arctic Fox
- Rabbit
- Mink

10. Glue, varnish and epoxy

- Head varnishes
- Superglues
- Epoxy adhesive
- Ultra violet resins

11. Hooks

- Types of hook
- Wire gauges
- Coatings
- New/Old Scales
- Knife edge point
- Needle point
- Kirbed and reversed hook points
- Barbless hook
- Micro barb
- Short barb
- Beak hook
- Circle hook

Reading List follows:

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. Those in **bold** type are classified as **Instructional** and those in plain type as **Reference**. Instructional books marked with an asterisk are regarded as particularly helpful. You may bring some Reference books with you into the examination for pattern guidance.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
<i>Instructional:</i>		
Tying Flies in the Irish Style *	E.J. Malone	Smith Settle
Flytying for Beginners*	Peter Gathercole	Aurum Press Ltd.
Beginners Guide to Flytying*	Mann & Griffiths	Merlin Unwin Books
Flytying Techniques *	Jacqueline Wakeford	Black
An Introduction to Flytying	Pat O'Reilly & Derek Hoskin	Crowood
The Fly-tying Bible	Peter Gathercole	Aurum Press Ltd.
Fly Tying Methods	Darrel Martin	David & Charles
Tying Dry Flies	Randall Kaufuann	Western Fisherman's Press
Fly Dressing I	Dave Collier	David & Charles
Fly Dressing II	Dave Collier	David & Charles
Further Guide to Fly Dressing	John Veniard	A & C Black
How to Dress Salmon Flies	T.E. Pryce-Tennatt	Black
Salmon Flies	Poul Jorgensen	Stockpole Books
The Art of the Atlantic Salmon Fly	J.D. Bates	Swan Hill
Tying Flies with CDC	Leon Links	Merlin Unwin Books
Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
The Art of tying the Dry Fly	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
The Art of tying the Nymph	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
<i>Reference:</i>		
A Man May Fish	T.C. Kingsmill-Moore	Colin Smythe
Waterside Guide	John Goddard	Merlin Unwin Books
The Flytiers Companion	Mick Dawes	Swan Hill
Tube Flies	Mark Mandell and Les Johnson	Frank Amato Publications
Shrimp and Spey Flies	Mann and Gillespie	Merlin Unwin Books

A Dictionary of Trout Flies	John Roberts	Collins
Hairwing and tube flies for Salmon	Chris Mann	Merlin Unwin Books
Saltwater Flies	Deke Meyer	Frank Amato Publications
Flies of Ireland	Peter O'Reilly	Merlin Unwin Books
Irish Trout & Salmon Flies	E.J. Malone	Colin Smythe
Fly Fishing in Ireland	Peter O'Reilly	Merlin Unwin Books
An Anglers Entomology	J.R. Harris	Collins
The World's Best Trout Flies	John Roberts	Tiger
Matching The Hatch	Pat O'Reilly	Quiller Publishing Ltd