



# **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 in this discipline 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 materials commonly used in fly dressing and contained in the list of published patterns below and also identify images of insects or specimens 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. This may be the Lesson Plan as used in Part 4 above.
- 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 hooks and materials for the required patterns to be dressed in the Assessment. 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
- Role Play/Teaching Scenario: during the Practical Assessment, the candidate will be given a scenario whereby he/she will be asked to teach the tying of a specific fly pattern to one of the Assessors who will undertake the role of a beginner client.

## 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.

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.	Any Salmon Shrimp Pattern	Salmon Fly
11.	Any Predator Pattern	Predator
12.	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 wire

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 tippets

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 lemon yellow 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-vise 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 (including Wally Wings)
- Poly yarn wings
- Hair wings
- Matuka wings
- Loop wings
- Streamer wings
- Templedog wings

- Synthetic wings, e.g. Twinkle, Funky Fibre
- 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)
- Furred hackles
- Collar hackles
- Beard hackles
- Twin hackles
- Stripped hackles
- Hair hackles (dubbing loop method)
- Paraloop style

## **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
- Flexifloss
- Nymph skin
- Sili-skin
- Floss
- Fur
- Silk
- Wire
- Stripped peacock quill and synthetic quill
- Raffia/Raffene
- Fritz, Straggle Fritz
- Woven (wire and fabric)
- Chenille
- Ultra chenille
- Tube fly

- **Detached bodies**
- Woven
- Pre-made (commercial)
- Furled
- Yarn
- Foam
- 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<sup>[1][2]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Needle point
- Kirbed and reversed hook points
- Barbless hook<sup>[1][2]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Micro barb<sup>[1][2]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Short barb
- Beak hook
- Circle hook

- **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><b>Instructional:</b></i>		
<b>Tying Flies in the Irish Style *</b>	E.J. Malone	Smith Settle
<b>Flytying for Beginners*</b>	Peter Gathercole	Aurum Press Ltd.
<b>Beginners Guide to Flytying*</b>	Mann & Griffiths	Merlin Unwin Books
<b>Flytying Techniques *</b>	Jacqueline Wakeford	Black
<b>An Introduction to Flytying</b>	Pat O'Reilly & Derek Hoskin	Crowood
<b>The Fly-tying Bible</b>	Peter Gathercole	Aurum Press Ltd.
<b>Fly Tying Methods</b>	Darrel Martin	David & Charles
<b>Tying Dry Flies</b>	Randall Kaufmann	Western Fisherman's Press
<b>Fly Dressing I</b>	Dave Collier	David & Charles
<b>Fly Dressing II</b>	Dave Collier	David & Charles
<b>Further Guide to Fly Dressing</b>	John Veniard	A & C Black
<b>How to Dress Salmon Flies</b>	T.E. Pryce-Tennatt	Black
<b>Salmon Flies</b>	Poul Jorgensen	Stockpole Books
<b>The Art of the Atlantic Salmon Fly</b>	J.D. Bates	Swan Hill
<b>Tying Flies with CDC</b>	Leon Links	Merlin Unwin Books
<b>Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple</b>	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
<b>The Art of tying the Dry Fly</b>	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
<b>The Art of tying the Nymph</b>	Skip Morris	Frank Amato Publications
<i><b>Reference:</b></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
Irish Mayflies: A Fly Fishers Guide	Patsy Deery	Ken Smith Publishing
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