



**Association of Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructors  
(AAPGAI)**

**Professional fly dressing syllabus  
(Duration 2.5 hours)**

**1. Background information**

The following notes are intended as a guide for those preparing to take the Provisional Fly Dressing Qualification.

**2. Introduction**

You are being examined on your ability as an **Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructor in 'Provisional fly dressing'**. In order to be successful at provisional level, an instructor must be able to demonstrate a basic depth of knowledge in fly dressing techniques and materials together with an understanding of how to effectively describe/communicate the techniques to someone who is new to fly dressing. The fly dressing examinations are broken down into 4 parts.

**Part 1: Written Paper**

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 are required to explain and demonstrate their ability to tie any of the selected flies, full details of which are attached in the accompanying spreadsheet, where pattern descriptions for all flies in the advanced syllabus are given. The candidate may be asked to perform a specific technique in isolation – e.g. mounting a wing or spinning deer hair.

**Duration 1.0 hour**

**Part 3 Material and insect identification**

The candidate will be asked to identify a number of materials commonly used in fly dressing and also a range of insects encountered frequently while angling.

**Duration 30 minutes**

**Part 4 Teaching/Communication skills**

The candidate will be asked to explain in a clear and concise manner the techniques and materials used in dressing any of the selected flies in order to demonstrate a basic level of teaching/communication skills in fly dressing

**Duration 30 minutes**

## AAPGAI Provisional qualification in Fly Dressing



AAPGAI provisional fly dressing syllabus

### 2.1. Prior preparation

#### Presentation Flies

The candidate must select 5 flies from the attached list which must contain one fly from each category together with a fly of the candidates choice (NOT IN THE LIST) to demonstrate additional fly dressing techniques.

The candidate must supply the following (***on the day of the assessment***)

1. Two examples of each of their selected flies demonstrating a level of consistency in dressing the patterns.
2. A list of techniques and materials used in dressing each of the compulsory patterns. Hand written, typed or electronic formats are acceptable.
3. Paper copies of the requirements in item 2 however, paper copies must be brought to the assessment for use by the assessors to allow comments with regard to the practical assessment.

Pattern descriptions for all flies in the Provisional syllabus are given in the attached spreadsheet.

#### **Note:**

***The selected patterns should be submitted on the day of the assessment. DO NOT SEND THEM IN THE POST.***

### 2.2. Practical assessment

Candidates will be expected to bring all the necessary materials (substitute materials to the rarer items are acceptable), tools and equipment to sit the assessment.

Candidates must be aware that this assessment is intended to determine their competence and ability to dress any of the selected flies. The techniques upon which they will be assessed will be those related to chosen flies. The candidate will be assessed for the following:

1. Organisation and setup
2. Written paper
3. Entomological identification (insects commonly seen on rivers and still waters)
4. Fly tying material and insect identification
5. Practical tying assessment

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A basic knowledge of the following fly dressing materials and tools should be apparent during the assessment; a number of examples are listed below.

### **Fly tying tools**

Knowledge of the fly tying tools and their uses; these should include vices, scissors, hackle pliers, dubbing needles, dubbing twisters and hair stackers.

### **Threads**

A basic knowledge of threads and their applications is required. The candidate should be able to describe the properties threads and give some of the advantages and disadvantages of their use.

### **Waxes**

The candidate should be able to explain the use of both dubbing and fly tying waxes and should be able to explain the differences between them.

### **Tailing**

Knowledge of creating tails on all types of flies (trout, salmon etc) and the feathers and other materials used in the process is expected.

### **Bodies**

Creating floss, herl, dubbed and tinsel bodies for example and techniques used to achieve a smooth body when using tinsel or floss.

### **Dubbing and its application**

Natural, synthetic, guard hairs, under fur. Dubbing loop, thread splitting, use of wax in dubbing, touch dubbing.

### **Ribbing**

The use of different ribbing materials such as tinsels and feather herls is expected.

### **Hackles and hackling techniques**

Hackle types used in fly dressing (Cock, hen, saddle, genetic). The techniques used when using these hackles; dry fly hackling, palmered hackling, parachute hackling, throat and beard hackling etc is expected by the candidate.

### **Deer hair**

A basic knowledge of the properties of Deer hair and its different applications is required for example spinning Deer hair and creating wings such as those on sedge patterns.

### **Winging techniques**

The candidate should be familiar with winging techniques used in fly dressing; paired wing slips for both wet and dry flies, rolled feather fibre wings, hair wings such as Squirrel, bucktail and Artic Fox etc.

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**Compulsory pattern descriptions**

**See attached spreadsheet for Provisional Patterns**

**On the "Join Us" Page.**