



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

**Entry Level Fly Dressing Syllabus**

**(Duration 3.5 hours as shown below. It is unlikely the assessment elements will run consecutively.)**

**Please read THOROUGHLY through this precis.**

**1. Background information**

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

**2. Introduction**

You are being examined on your ability as an **Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructor at 'Entry Level in Fly Dressing'**. To be successful at Entry level, an instructor must be able to demonstrate a good basic depth of knowledge in fly dressing techniques and materials together with an understanding of how to effectively describe and communicate the techniques to someone who is new to fly dressing.

The fly dressing examinations are broken down into 3 parts.

**Part 1: Written Paper**

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

**Duration 1 hour**

**Part 2 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 3 Practical assessment in fly dressing.**

***A risk assessment form is to be completed prior to the practical assessment. This is to assess the suitability for the assessment location by the candidate.***

***Duration 10 minutes.***

Candidates are required to explain and demonstrate their ability to tie any of the flies, full details of which are attached in the accompanying spreadsheet, where

## AAPGAI Entry Level Qualification in Fly Dressing



pattern descriptions for all flies in the entry level syllabus are given. The candidate may be asked to perform a specific technique in isolation. e.g., mounting a wing to demonstrate their teaching and communication skills.

**Duration 2 hours**

### AAPGAI Entry Level Fly Dressing Syllabus

#### 2.1. Prior preparation

##### Presentation Flies

The candidate should tie the five flies listed plus one of the candidates own choice (ANY FLY NOT IN THE LIST OF PATTERNS) 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. Handwritten, typed or electronic formats are acceptable.
3. Paper copies of the requirements in item 2 however must be brought to the assessment for use by the assessors to allow comments regarding the practical assessment. A copy for each assessor (3 max) would be good.

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

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

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.

A basic knowledge of the following fly dressing materials and tools should be apparent during the assessment. Several 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 of the threads and give some of the advantages and disadvantages of their use.

##### Waxes

## AAPGAI Entry Level Qualification in Fly Dressing



The candidate should be able to explain the use of 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**

The use of a variety of natural and synthetic materials. Dubbing loop, thread splitting, use of wax in dubbing, touch dubbing.

### **Ribbing**

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

### **Hackles and hackling techniques**

Hackle types used in fly dressing (Cock, hen, saddle, genetic). The techniques used in using these feathers in various hackling styles; dry fly, palmered, parachute, throat and beard etc is expected from 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.

. 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 their 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, still waters and saltwater environments.)
4. Fly tying material and insect identification.
5. Practical tying assessment.



**As an AAPGAI Instructor you should offer the highest standards of instruction.**

**We must always consider our customers wellbeing.**

**Questions will be asked on health and safety plus first aid considerations.**

**Allergy Advice.**

**Whilst not a common problem, thought should be given to, the possibility of students having issues with materials used within fly dressing. This could be, but may not be limited to, the following:**

**The preservatives used for feathers and skins.**

**Natural oils present in hides such as deer hair.**

**Moth repellent used in storage of materials.**

**Suggestions as to dealing with and preventing problems arising from the above should be prepared for your assessment**

**Child and Vulnerable adult protection measures should also be considered.**

**If you have any questions regarding this assessment, please ask a member of the fly-tying team or your mentor.**

**Compulsory pattern descriptions**

**See attached spreadsheet for Entry Level patterns.**

**A suggested reading list is also provided on the pattern spreadsheet.**

**It is not intended for candidates to purchase these books unless they feel it worthwhile.**