

THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1874

Registered Charity No. 212025

EXAMINATION FOR PROFICIENCY IN APICULTURE MODULE 1 HONEY BEE MANAGEMENT

24th March 2018 Time Allowed 1½ hours

Candidate Number:

Instructions to Candidates

Read the questions carefully. Answer All Sections. It is recommended not to spend more than 10 minutes on Section A, 50 minutes on Section B and 30 minutes on Section C.

Unless stated otherwise questions apply to honey bees.

Use **BLACK** pen for text. **Black** pencil may only be used for diagrams. **DO NOT USE COLOURS.**

Examiner Use Only

Question	Sec A	B11	B12	B13	B14	B15	C16	C17	Total
Mark									
Moderated									

SECTION A (10 marks, 1 for each question)

Answer **ALL** the questions in this section. Use one or two word or short phrase answers. Please write your answers on the question paper.

- Q1 Name one type of hive used in the UK which employs top bee space.
- Q2 What should be put into a brood box to test for queenlessness?
- Q3 Give one time when robbing is most likely to be a problem.
- Q4 What is anaphylaxis?
- Q5 Why are bees unable to store nectar as a Winter food?
- Q6 Give one use to which bees put propolis.
- Q7 Approximately how many worker cells are in a standard National brood frame?
- Q8 What do bees need to enable them to convert wax foundation to comb?
- Q9 What size, in millimetres, is bee space?
- Q10 Give one reason for adding supers in early Spring.

PLEASE HAND IN THIS SHEET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION

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SECTION B (60 marks, 15 for each question)

Answer any **FOUR** questions from this section. Write short notes for your answers.

Marks

- Q11 Starvation and poor Varroa control are two major causes of Winter losses.
- (a) For each, describe briefly how such problems can be avoided giving a simple account of the methods and timing. 12
 - (b) List three other jobs that should be carried out prior to the onset of Winter. 3
- Q12
- (a) Describe briefly, including equipment required and precautions to be observed, how to remove a swarm situated in a low hedge bordering a public road. 10
 - (b) Describe briefly one method of hiving a swarm. 5
- Q13
- (a) List three uses to which a 5-frame nucleus colony can be put. 3
 - (b) For one of these uses describe briefly how to make up a nucleus, assuming it is to be kept in the same apiary. 6
 - (c) Outline a method for uniting two 5-frame nuclei. 6
- Q14
- (a) State why attention should be paid to hygiene in the apiary. 1
 - (b)
 - (i) Outline a method for getting a colony onto clean comb without any loss of brood. 8
 - (ii) Describe briefly a method for dealing with the old brood box and frames which have been removed. 6
- Q15
- (a) List four important criteria to be used when selecting a site for an out-apiary. 4
 - (b) Describe how two active hives could be transported to such a site from a garden apiary 20 miles away in early July. (Only a car is available for transport). 11

SECTION C (30 marks)

Answer **ONE** question from this section. Give *labelled* diagrams where applicable.

- Q16
- (a) Name three types of queen cell. 3
 - (b) On inspection of a hive in mid-May, 10 unsealed queen cells are found. The unmarked queen cannot be found, although there are eggs present. Describe in detail one course of action that the beekeeper can take to ensure that the colony is ready for the honey flow in July. 15
 - (c) A beekeeper has twice removed all queen cells from a hive, at weekly intervals, in early June. 6 days later there are several sealed, small queen cells and the queen is missing. Why is this and what can the beekeeper do next to stabilise this colony and get maximum honey from it? 5
 - (d) In late August a hive is found to have two sealed queen cells and a marked queen. What does this indicate and what course of action should the beekeeper take? 7
- Q17
- (a) A beekeeper has four hives located next to a field of Autumn-sown oilseed rape.
 - (i) Describe, with timings, the procedures that can be carried out to maximise the honey crop. 9
 - (ii) List five problems that might be encountered by the beekeeper while the crop is in flower. 5
 - (b) Describe two different methods, based on different principles, of clearing bees from supers giving the advantages and disadvantages of each method. 14
 - (c) Name the other two methods for clearing bees. 2