Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Food Written Examiner's Report May 2023

General

11 candidates sat the written exam in this cycle. Some candidates had prepared for the exam and generally gained good marks. Other candidates struggled to achieve a pass mark.

Ideally preparation would include some food law enforcement experience, together with some general enforcement experience as well as maintaining a knowledge of the legislation in question.

Section A

These were generally answered adequately.

Q1. In general answers had sufficient content, although some candidates struggled with the full definition of an additive. Most candidates could provide sufficient categories of additives

Q2. Not answered by many candidates. Those that did who struggled to gain marks with this question.

Q3. Answered by the majority of candidates. Some gained very high marks as should be expected with an area that is basic to food enforcement. That being said, there were some very poor marks indicating a worrying lack of knowledge in those candidates.

Q4. Again, answered by the majority of candidates but with a varying knowledge of the definition and categories and of the controls on Novel Foods

Q5. Answered by the majority of candidates and those candidates which had practical sampling experience will have benefitted from that experience in answering this question, gaining good marks. However other candidates struggled to even define the term "single sample"

Q6. Answered by the majority of candidates and most gained reasonable marks.

Section B

Section B questions are scenario type questions and give candidates with practical food enforcement experience a chance to demonstrate their knowledge. Those that could demonstrate that knowledge gained good marks.

Q7. Only attempted by one candidate who failed to add any case law to their answer. Candidates with knowledge of the requirements of S.14 & S.15 of the Food Safety Act 1990 and of the large amounts of case law supporting this legislation should have found this question relatively straightforward. It appears that this wasn`t the case.

Q8. Answered by the majority of candidates and most gained good marks with some excellent answers given.

Q9. Answered by few candidates but overall competent answers were given.

Q10. Again answered by the majority of candidates most of whom gained good marks by detailing the contents of an Improvement Notice and of the Hierarchy of Enforcement needed before serving. Better candidates also included active follow up to service in their answers.