

## Examiner's report

### Qualifications Framework

### Stage 2: Food Written Exam

### Written Examiner's Report September 2024

#### General

The written food exam paper tests both the candidate's knowledge of the specifics of food and on the application of that knowledge to practical enforcement scenarios.

The Section A questions have a focus on the detail of knowledge required, whereas the Section B questions allow candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their experience of practical food enforcement, both civil and criminal.

#### Section A

These questions covered a range of legislative requirements including the Food Law Code of Practice and Food Enforcement Competency requirements.

Q1 Answering Q1 required that candidates had a good knowledge of the qualification and competency requirements of Food Officers under both the Code of Practice and the FSA Competency requirements.

Q2 Required detailed knowledge of the controls regarding information given to consumers in respect of the 14 named food allergens. This is a cornerstone of modern food standards enforcement and an area that all candidates should be familiar with.

Q3 and Q4 required that candidates were familiar with the use and issuing of Improvement Notices and Q4 with their food enforcement powers. These are basic areas of knowledge that all candidates sitting the exam should be able to bring to the table.

Q5 again, all candidates sitting the exam must have an extensive knowledge of food sampling and this was examined in Q5.

Q6 Candidates are also expected to have a basic knowledge of HACCP and CCP's and this was tested in Q6.

#### Section B

Q7 asked for candidates to draft a trade advice leaflet. This type of question regularly appears in Section B and candidates should be prepared to both provide the relevant information and to also provide it in the manner of a trade advice leaflet.

Marks can be gained for the formatting of the leaflet in these types of questions

Q8 was a food information/food labelling scenario regarding a home/primary authority premise. Again, this type of question has appeared in previous exam questions as it does represent the types of scenarios found in real time food enforcement.

Candidates who could provide detailed knowledge of the relevant legislation and on relevant enforcement actions would gain high marks.

Q9 used a topical example to allow the candidates to demonstrate practical enforcement activities, including formal sampling, in respect of non-compliant foods being placed on the marketplace.

Again, candidates who had experience of these activities would gain good marks.

Q10 required that candidates answering this question had practical knowledge in the areas of both Novel Foods and Protected Food Names.

These are issues that are likely to be extremely relevant in food standards moving forward and candidates should have good knowledge of both the requirements in these areas and of the relevant sanction available to enforcers.

It is advised that an awareness and familiarity with the syllabus may enable candidates to answer more of a range of questions particularly in Part A. Candidates should ensure familiarity with the syllabus ahead of the exam, to obtain higher marks.

Use of past papers and completing under timed circumstances, will assist with exam technique and support your general revision and preparation overall. These can be found in the [Past Papers and Reports](#) section of the Resources area.