

Qualifications Framework written examination

Food Standards

May 2025

Guidance for this examination

Please ensure that you indicate clearly at the top of the answer booklet, the law viewpoint from which you will be answering: English, Scottish or Welsh.

The examiners may expect candidates to show knowledge of legislation which is in place but not in force (i.e. has been enacted) and regulations which have been made but are not yet in force, if they are directly relevant to the subject-matter of the examination.

Examination structure

There are two sections to the examination paper:

Section A Consists of six questions.
Candidates should attempt to answer four questions.
Total allocation of marks is 40 marks.
Suggested time allocation is 30 minutes.

Section B Consists of four questions.
Candidates should attempt to answer two questions.
Total allocation of marks is 60 marks.
Suggested time allocation is 60 minutes.

Total time allowed – one hour 30 minutes (plus ten minutes' reading time).

Note:

The Food Standards paper is a **closed book**; no materials are permitted to be taken into the examination room.

*The examination paper has **five** pages, including this front sheet.*

Section A

Candidates should attempt to answer four questions.
Each question carries ten marks.
Total: 40 marks.

1. Answer both parts of the question.

- (a) Outline the role of Alternative Enforcement Strategies (AES) as an intervention for food businesses and detail when AES would be appropriate and inappropriate. (6 marks)
- (b) What practical interventions could be used to implement an Alternative Enforcement Strategy? (4 marks)
(Total: 10 marks)

2. Answer both parts of the question.

- (a) Explain the meaning of 'audit' as defined in assimilated regulation (EU) 2017/625. (5 marks)
- (a) Outline five other methods and techniques as detailed in Article 14 of assimilated regulation (EU) 2017/625 which could be used for official controls. (5 marks)
(Total: 10 marks)

3. Answer both parts of the question.

- (a) Detail the equipment required by an officer to contain a sample as evidence when formally sampling food for food standards analysis. (4 marks)
- (b) What information would need to be specified on a food sample label? (6 marks)
(Total: 10 marks)

4. Answer both parts of the question.

- (a) What information needs to be provided to the end consumer under the Food Information Regulations 2014, for non-prepacked foods packaged at the request of the consumer, and foods prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) which are sold directly to the consumer? (5 marks)
- (b) Detail **how** this information is to be made available to the final consumer for non-prepacked foods and for PPDS foods. (5 marks)
(Total: 10 marks)

Section A continues over the page.

5. Answer both parts of the question.

- (a) In assimilated Regulation (EU) 1169/2011, what is meant by the terms 'legal name', 'customary name' and 'descriptive name'? Explain with the aid of examples of each. (6 marks)
- (b) Give two examples of when additional mandatory particulars may be required to accompany the name of the food. (4 marks)
- (Total: 10 marks)

6. Answer all parts of the question.

- (a) Explain the meaning of the three UK Geographical indication logos as produced below: (3 marks)



- (b) For each Geographical indication logo, give an example of products which are authorised to use the logo. (3 marks)
- (c) What enforcement options are available if Geographical indications are used in a way which may mislead, and where are these enforcement powers found? (4 marks)
- (Total: 10 marks)

Section A total of 40 marks.

End of Section A.

Section B
Candidates should attempt to answer two questions.
Each question carries 30 marks.
Total: 60 marks.

7. Answer all parts of the question.

You are an authorised food officer working in your local authority Food Standards team. You receive a consumer complaint following their recent purchase of a made-to-order sandwich from a local, independent delicatessen in your area.

The consumer states that although they advised staff that they had an allergy to mustard and were told none of the ingredients in the sandwich contained mustard, on beginning to consume the sandwich they suffered an allergic reaction. The consumer therefore alleges that the sandwich must have contained mustard.

(a) What further information should you obtain from the consumer at this point?

(5 marks)

You decide to conduct a test purchase of the same type of sandwich from the delicatessen. Posing as a customer, you order the sandwich, telling the staff member that you have an allergy to mustard prior to them making the sandwich. They do not show you any information but advise that they do not use mustard. Once the sandwich is purchased, you introduce yourself as an authorised officer and explain the circumstances behind the test purchase and complaint.

(b) Explain the procedure you would follow in formally sampling the sandwich following the purchase and explain the practical steps you would take to sample and preserve evidence.

(10 marks)

(c) What evidence should you look to obtain from the delicatessen at the time of the test purchase prior to leaving the premises, and what powers would be used under the Food Safety Act 1990?

(10 marks)

Following an analysis of the sandwich, the analysis certificate indicates the presence of mustard sufficient to render the sandwich unsafe to a sufferer of a mustard allergy.

You invite the food business operator into your office for a voluntary recorded interview.

(d) What specific information would you look to establish from the interview?

(5 marks)

(Total: 30 marks)

8. Answer both parts of the question.

(a) How do the provisions of Articles 18 and 19 of assimilated regulation (EU) 178/2002 aim to protect consumers from unsafe food?

(20 marks)

(b) Discuss the effectiveness and limitations of these provisions.

(10 marks)

(Total: 30 marks)

Section B continued over the page.

9. You are an authorised food officer working within your local authority Food Standards team.

A number of complaints have been received by the team regarding incorrect, incomplete or non-English food labels on imported prepacked foods found in independent retail stores in your local authority.

You have been tasked by your team manager to draft a detailed advice leaflet to distributors and importers in your area about the mandatory labelling requirements for prepacked food sold in the UK for distributors and importers.

The advice leaflet should encompass the following areas:

- The information required to be displayed on prepacked products and how it should be displayed.
- The responsibilities of importers and distributors in terms of food labelling for prepacked foods under assimilated Regulation (EU) 1169/2011.
- Enforcement action which could be taken by your local authority with regard to importers or distributors who import or distribute foods which do not bear the mandatory food labelling for prepacked foods as required under assimilated Regulation (EU) 1169/2011.

Draft such a leaflet.

(30 marks)

10. **Answer both parts of the question.**

(a) How do the provisions of assimilated Regulation (EU) 1924/2006 on Nutrition and Health claims made on food, ensure truthful and scientifically substantiated claims?

(22 marks)

(b) What challenges do enforcement authorities face in enforcing the provisions of assimilated Regulation (EU) 1924/2006?

(8 marks)

(Total: 30 marks)

Section B total of 60 marks.

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER.