

Qualifications Framework Examiner's Report

Qualifications Framework

Stage 2: Weights and Measures Examiner's Report May 2026

General

Two scenarios were used for the May 2026 professional interviews relating to inspections of a supermarket and a bakery (PGRs). Five questions are asked per scenario, and the scenarios are marked out of 100. Not all questions are allocated 20 marks.

16 candidates sat the exam and 12 passed. Both scenarios had an even number of passes and fails. The lowest mark was 14 and the highest was 84.

Other information

Comments on the scenarios:

Supermarket:

- This scenario included a picture of the markings found on a self-service scale and candidates were asked to comment on its compliance - it is a key skill of any Inspector to be able to assess whether the instrument is marked correctly. In this case it was missing the Notified number (and Approved body because it was also UKCA marked) so would have required further investigation/enforcement action.
- Candidates were asked what powers they had to conduct the inspection which, on the whole, was not well answered. I expected this to be very straightforward, but several candidates did not mention Schedule 5 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015.
- The scenario asked candidates to explain what products would be weight checked in the store and why they were chosen. It was clear that few had performed such checks.
- The final question on drained weight was well answered.

Bakery (PGRs)

- The bakery in this scenario had a light/heavy instrument in use for making up packs of biscuits which was dealt with fairly well. Older equipment will occasionally be encountered during inspections, and hence in the exam, but as long as candidates can identify the correct regulations and broadly explain how to test it then a pass mark would have been obtained
- The follow up question to this was advice on buying a new electronic scale. Standard sources of advice should be referenced to ensure that the new scale is suitable for its application. Any advice should be appropriate to the scenario and language tailored accordingly. Many candidates fail to do this resulting in overly complex information being given to the trader.
- Most candidates were well versed in the Packaged Goods Regulations 2006, but advice on compliance should include Regulation 9 which was missed by some candidates.

In general, those that score highly in this exam give appropriately detailed information in a succinct manner.

As I've said previously, candidates should not try to tell me everything they know about a certain subject and hope that some of the information is correct and relevant. Better marks are obtained by pausing to consider the situation and providing appropriate responses or solutions.

This is, after all, how we would conduct ourselves when conducting inspections, investigating complaints, and interacting with traders.

Candidates should remember that there are five questions and manage their time accordingly to ensure each can be answered.

CTSI continue to offer a weights and measures professional interview training day that includes a mock exam. The mock exam provides valuable experience in sitting a professional interview and the training helps candidates to understand the types of scenario and common themes they could encounter.