

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Unit 4 Weights and Measures Examiner's Report November 2019

General

This is the first legal metrology examination for a number of years and the first in the new format of one two-hour paper covering the entire syllabus. The previous framework was composed of one three-hour paper cover "Weights and Measures-Law" and a second paper covering "Weights and Measures-Technology".

It has proved problematic to write a new paper covering the entire syllabus within the requisite time schedules. This has meant that the paper necessarily relied on edited versions of previous questions which were available online

Future papers will more successfully synthesize the previous two elements of the exam to hopefully test comprehensively all aspects of the syllabus.

There are two points to note from this year's examination.

1 - The marking scheme allows marks to be awarded for the use of specific terms and phrases, when this is combined with a pass mark of only 40% it is relatively easy for candidates to gain sufficient marks to pass the exam without demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter being examined. This point has been noted in successive examiners reports

2 - There is a clear difference between the candidates that have worked very hard to understand the subject, in a number of instances full marks were awarded for some of the answers. This should be contrasted with those candidates who have not been able to devote sufficient time to the exam.

The results for the best candidates were very good and they showed a good understanding and knowledge to become a Weights and Measures Inspector. As noted above, the weaker candidates managed to gain sufficient marks by adhering to the marking scheme and it was felt did not have a good understanding of the subject.

It should also be noted that the basis of this examination was previous papers so the candidates were able to familiarize themselves with those questions and the subjects that would be examined. This opportunity will not be available to future candidates

Section A

Q1 This question related to the RoHS Directive 2011/65 and how this should affect a manufacturer of portable weighing platform. Two answers were very good and indicated that candidates had "read around the subject". The third answer was very weak.

Candidates must have a good understanding of all of the legislative requirements that relate to weighing and measuring instruments, not the just the Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments or Measuring Instruments Directive

Q2 This question was examining the relationship between the national, European and international legal metrology institutions and how they interact with each other. It required a practical example of one guidance note. It was answered by five candidates with one candidate being awarded full marks.

Q3 This question was examining the understanding of section 11A of the Weights and Measures Act 1985 and Module F verification under the Directive 2014/32. Three candidates answered this question with a range of quality of answers. Understanding the difference between these different areas is unfortunately very complicated but very important to ensure that the legislation is enforced consistently. It will remain an important part of the syllabus

Q4 This question was examining the understanding of the duties and powers of the Weights and Measures Act. This is an important area as it tests the wider understanding of the responsibilities of a Weights and Measures Authority and a Weights and Measures Inspector. It was only answered by two candidates and neither scored a good mark.

Q5 This question was examining the understanding of standard temperature accounting and how a petrol pump that utilized this would be tested. This question was answered by 9 candidates and one of them scored full marks. Some candidates made no reference to the Government guidance.

Q6 This question was examining the understanding of the role of software in modern weighing and measuring technology and the Guide 7.2. All candidates answered this question. Some marks were very poor, and one candidate scored full marks. This is a very important subject area and will continue to be examined in the future.

Section B

Q7 This was a long question that examined a range of the legislative requirements of Part IV and the Schedules of the Weights and Measures Act and The Packaged Goods Regulations 2006. No one answered this question which is significant. This subject represents an important part of the syllabus relating to the law on Packages which candidates must understand if they are to be competent Inspectors of Weights and Measures. Questions on this subject are likely to be in future papers.

Q8 This question focused on the initial verification and re-verification of liquid fuel measuring instruments and an understanding of WM1001. This question was answered by all the candidates with a wide range of marks. All of the candidates showed a good understanding and the best candidates showed an excellent understanding.

Q9 This question focused on the initial verification of class II NAWI's used for the sale of precious metals. It also considered the implications of gravity on weighing and measuring instruments and actions a Trading Standards Officer could take. This question was answered by all but one of the candidates and was answered well. It showed a good understanding of the issues.

Q10 This question focused on an understanding of the Packaged Goods Regulations 2006. Only one candidate answered this question and it was a comprehensive answer.