

Examiners report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2 Practical Examination Weights and Measures

The practical exam was sat by 2 candidates this year

The exam consisted of 2 practical questions and 2 scenario questions based on the Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016. Each question was worth 25 marks and, on average, the scenario questions were answered better than the practical ones. Both candidates were given the same questions.

The practical question on testing a Non-automatic Weighing Instrument was not answered well this year with neither candidate gaining even half of the marks available. Testing a NAWI is a core competence for an Inspector of Weights and Measures and candidates should ensure they are adequately prepared and practiced in this task. Identification of equipment and product under test was an issue in the average quantity question and easy marks were lost. This was the question that both candidates scored the least on.

One candidate scored almost full marks on the liquid fuel measuring instrument question; however, the other candidate incorrectly applied the inspection tolerance in a verification scenario that resulted in a loss of marks. Candidates were asked to make a decision on whether the instrument passed or not, but neither explicitly stated this.

When required to produce a result for mean and standard deviation neither candidate managed to do so.

General

Good time management is key for successful results in this exam. There are two questions to be completed in an hour and keeping to a 50/50 split is crucial. Keeping to this timing ensures that maximum marks can be obtained. Candidates are asked to state whether an instrument passes or fails and in some instances are asked what paperwork would be issued. Often candidates hedge their bets and explain what would be done in the event of a pass and a failure. A better strategy is to make a decision based on the results achieved.

Thorough completion of the portfolio, and practice, is essential preparation for this exam.