

TSQF Qualifications Awards Board (QAB) Update for 2014 exam cycle

Consumer Rights Bill:

The QAB has agreed to publish syllabuses which reflect the changes coming into place by the Consumer Rights Act. This will allow all trainers and candidates the information needed for the examinations in 2015.

Removal of Consumer Credit and Money Advice modules as of 2015

Consumer Credit has been a main module within the Trading Standards Qualification Framework (TSQF), however with the changes that occurred in 2014 with the introduction of the Financial Conduct Authority there has been a dramatic change to the role Trading Standards deliver within this subject area. The QAB recognised that this now is not a standalone module within the suite of service delivery modules. The remaining Consumer Credit elements will be implemented into another service delivery module of the TSQF.

The main trading standards delivery for Money Advice is in Scotland where advisors are now using other sources to gain qualifications in this service delivery area.

The TSI executive therefore made a recommendation to the QAB for the removal of both modules within the TSQF. The QAB agreed with the recommendation to remove these service delivery modules from the TSQF.

Note: This recommendation will be taken to TSI Council meeting in March 2015.

Product Safety practical examination:

A proposal was presented from the Product Safety examiner to introduce a practical examination to this service delivery area. This report was taken first to the focus group for consideration and their recommendation was to keep the examination as it is currently delivered.

The QAB agreed that there is not the scope for a practical examination and that the reasons presented by the examiner for this change should be covered via the written examination.

Examinations pass marks:

The TSQF Examiners made a recommendation that each section of an examination paper should be passed for a student to be successful in an examination. At the moment the mark given is the total marks awarded. This request was presented to the focus group who recommended that they would be happy for the QAB to consider a potential pass for each section of an examination.

This recommendation was considered by the QAB. The QAB has requested that the examiners provide further rationales and review parallel qualifications before it makes its decision.

Legal Metrology Practical and Oral examinations:

The National Measurements Office (NMO) made recommendations to update the practical examination papers.

The recommendation presented by NMO was to split the practical exam into two parts. The first part continuing the actual testing of equipment with the second part being a theoretical scenario paper allowing students to be tested on equipment weights and measures officers now come in regular contact with.

The QAB have agreed this can be implemented as long as the following criteria are met by the end of April 2015 to allow candidates enough time for revision prior to the examination in November

- Specimen questions
- All draft questions
- Mark allocation
- Communication information
- Review of the portfolio of evidence.

Retrospective accredited degree exemptions:

The QAB have decided that retrospective exemptions **cannot** be awarded to students when the University's degree they obtained did not include in its accreditation process the modules they are seeking exemptions against.

Illness during an examination:

The QAB have agreed that if a candidate becomes ill during an examination then a doctor's note will be required to enable the TSI executive to provide a free of charge deferral.

Southampton Solent University:

Southampton Solent University has completed their validation process for a new law degree which will reflect elements of the Trading Standards Qualification Framework. The TSI executive has undertaken an accreditation process and we are awaiting some further evidence from the University before this can be finalised. Southampton Solent University is looking to start this course in 2017.

Examination summary:

Examination	Total No.	Range	Mean	% Pass
Advice Resolution Redress	6	53 - 73	64	100
Agriculture Oral	30	32 - 88	56	87
Agriculture Practical	28	30 - 100	79	89
Agriculture written	18	30 - 65	46	83
Animal Health and Welfare	10	26 - 77	51	80
Consumer Credit	1	44	44	100
Consumer Protection Environment	30	11 - 90	55	87
FT Civil	7	34 - 60	49	86
FT Criminal	29	21 - 72	49	83
Food Oral	37	27 - 75	52	73
Food Practical	30	42 - 92	82	100
Food Written	31	41 - 78	54	100
Intellectual Property	21	29 - 81	54	90
Intelligence and Investigative Principles	18	42 - 68	56	100
Law of Contract	34	11 - 80	42	56
Legal Metrology Oral	26	31 - 66	46	73
Legal Metrology Practical	26	25 - 69	50	85
Legal Metrology Law	22	13 - 68	48	68
Legal Metrology Technology	13	48 - 84	71	100
Legal Systems	28	1 - 80	43	68
Product Safety	20	32 - 79	52	80