

Food Standards and Agriculture Practical and Oral examination guidance

Both the Food Standards and Agriculture modules require candidates to have submitted one of the following combinations of portfolios:

- submitted the Core Skills Portfolio;
- Or have submitted the foundation portfolio and a 2.1 version portfolio or the foundation conversion portfolio
(this cannot include Animal Health and Welfare V2.1)

Any of the above named portfolios must be submitted by **1 October** for you to be able to sit the practical and oral exams.

Food Practical and Oral exam

The introduction of a separate practical sampling exercise will allow a refocusing of the oral exam to concentrate on the following elements:

- Knowledge of legislation
- Knowledge of enforcement powers
- Information obtained and analysed
- Action and conclusions explained
- Communications

The format currently used for the oral will continue.

Food Practical and Oral Logistics

Candidates will be required to sit both exams in the first instance. Should you fail one element of the exam, you will then be given the opportunity to take that element only. A 20% discount will be given to the exam fee.

The Practical and Oral exam will be two separate examinations, both exams must be passed. The scheduling of examinations on the day will dictate the order in which you take your examinations. Some candidates will take their practical examination first whilst others will take their oral examination first. You will be provided by TSI with a clear schedule of your exams and times being taken on the day six weeks prior to the start of the exams.

TSI try to hold all examinations at one venue. At the venue there will be a TSI reception and a candidate waiting area. You are able to stay in this area prior to, and whilst waiting for your other examination. From here you will be called for each examination you are taking shortly before the start time.

Always ensure you are available for collection by the staff involved. Where a candidate is not available for collection for their exam, TSI may not be able to re-assign a time slot for the exam to take place, and this exam would then have to be taken at the next exam cycle.

Food Oral

The food oral examination is 14 minutes in length. The pass mark is 40%. During the examinations there will be up to two examiners and two candidates at any one time. You may have the TSI moderator overseeing your examination. The moderator is there to ensure consistency on marking candidates and consistency across examiners.

As usual there will be a table with various foods, food labelling etc from which the examiner will base their examination on.

Sampling Exam

Candidates will complete the practical exam in addition to the oral exam. The sampling exam takes 20 minutes. The pass mark is 40%.

Food Standards Practical and Oral exams are held at the St Giles Hotel, Feltham (see website for full venue details).

Candidates will be collected from the waiting area and taken to the food practical exam room where a pre assigned station will be prepared and waiting for use. Be advised that the question and type of food stuff requiring sampling will be changed after each session. There will be other candidates also taking their practical exam with you at the same time.

Candidates sitting the Food Standards practical and oral exams are advised that you will be asked to sample any type of food stuff, for example – this is not an exhaustive list: nuts, meat (including beef, lamb, pork, chicken), fish, dairy products etc. Candidates are provided with latex free gloves to use during their exam.

Candidates will be expected to decide an appropriate method of sampling, actually sample the food stuff, complete all required paperwork and present the completed sample portions, sealed and tagged to the examiner.

Please wear practical clothing appropriate to taking a sample, whilst retaining smart appearance. (Example: no high heeled shoes.) You will be supplied with a disposable apron and gloves, and any other equipment appropriate to the sampling exercise.

Candidates are reminded that all possible caution should be used whilst taking your sample as there will be sharp equipment provided for this exercise. Should an accident occur during your exam, a first aid kit will be available along with a first aider.

There will be an examiner in the room during the examination. Candidates may not communicate with anyone during this exam unless you are experiencing difficulties, and only to the examiner. Should you experience difficulties, raise your hand to attract the attention of the examiner.

Once candidates have completed the exam, they must wait until the examiner has dismissed everyone from the room. Do not make any noise whilst leaving the room.

Possible foods to be sampled could include:

- Raw meats, various cuts and species.
- Meat products-mince (fresh and frozen), beef burgers, bacon, large and small pies, both loose and pre-packed. Corned and processed meats, sausages.
- Cheese.
- Milk in pint bottle.
- Fruit juice (2x1litre containers) either for Vitamin C or for substitution/added sweeteners.
- Fish-fresh –whole and fillets for species.
- Fish Products.
- Spirits-sold loose.
- Beer-sold non pre-packed (i.e. in a pint glass).
- Vegetables (potatoes, tomatoes etc.).
- Pastes and condiments-for GM.
- Tinned goods.
- Chocolate products.
- Breakfast cereals (for vitamin/mineral supplementation).

Sample Question (pass mark 40%):

You are an authorised food safety officer and you have been instructed by your manager to take formal samples of Wholemeal bread from small retail bakers in your local authority area as part of a routine sampling project. The first baker's shop you enter sells bread baked in a plant bakery 30 miles away in a neighbouring authority area. The un-sliced bread is pre-packed in a sealed bag printed with full food labelling information including the name and address of the plant bakery.

- (a) Describe what compositional controls, if any, apply to Wholemeal Bread and outline what you will ask your public analyst to test for when submitting the samples. (5 Marks)
- (b) What quantity of bread would you need to purchase to provide your public analyst with sufficient material to make a representative sample? (2 Marks)
- (c) On your exam table you will find loaves of wholemeal bread, a selection of sampling utensils, sampling containers, bags and seals and sampling paperwork. Given the above situation select your sample and carry out the process to produce a formal sample. However you decide to divide the sample you need only label and seal one portion as an example of your approach.
- You must place your exam number on the sample label where it states "Officers Name"** (35 Marks)
- (d) If you decide to leave a portion of the sample with the seller how would you advise them to store it? (3 Marks)
- (e) What documents would you complete during and after the visit and who would receive them. (5 Marks)

Total of 50 marks

Assessment:

A suitably structured exam paper is produced with space for brief written answers, this is then assessed on the day, along with the sealed sample portion.

Agriculture Practical and Oral examination

The format of the examination will predominately remain the same.

In addition to the normal style of examination and questioning, the examiner will also ask you during the exam to prepare a final sample from an aggregate sample of feed or fertiliser, whilst being observed by the examiner. With the addition of the practical element into the oral exam, the exam will now be 35 minutes, 15 minutes oral and 20 minutes practical. The pass mark remains as 40%. Candidates will have to pass both elements of the examinations (practical and oral), by attaining 40% in each part of the exam.

Candidates will be expected to determine the number of incremental samples using the legislation provided, prepare from an aggregate sample of feed or fertiliser a single final sample to the examiner and complete all required paperwork.

The introduction of a practical sampling exercise into the exam allows the detailed testing of:

- Practical skills
- Knowledge of legislation
- Ability to analyse information given

Agriculture Practical Assessment

A suitably structured exam paper is produced with space for brief written answers, this is then assessed on the day, along with the sealed final sample portion.

Logistics

Candidates taking their agricultural oral and practical exam, you will be collected from the waiting area and taken to the exam room. Candidates will have 35 minutes to complete both the oral and practical elements of the exam (15 minutes oral, 20 minutes practical).

Agriculture Practical and Oral exams are held at the St Giles Hotel Feltham (see website for venue detail). At the venue there will be a TSI reception and a candidate waiting area. You are able to stay in this area prior to, and whilst waiting for your examination. From here you will be called for each examination you are taking shortly before the start time.

Always ensure you are available for collection by the staff involved. Where a candidate is not available for collection for their exam, TSI may not be able to re-assign a time slot for the exam to take place, and this exam would then have to be taken at the next exam cycle.

Be advised that the question and type of feeding stuff or fertiliser will be changed after each session. The examiner will be in the room throughout the oral and practical examination. Once you have completed the exam, you must wait until the examiner has dismissed you from the room. Do not make any noise whilst leaving the room as other candidates may still be undertaking their exam.

Candidates are expected to wear practical clothing appropriate to taking a sample, whilst retaining smart appearance. (Example: no high heeled shoes.) You will be supplied with a disposable paper overall, and any other equipment appropriate to the sampling exercise.

Candidates are reminded that all possible caution should be used whilst taking your sample as there may be sharp equipment provided for this exercise. Should an accident occur during your exam, a first aid kit will be available along with a first aider.

Possible feeding stuffs to be sampled could include:

- Loose feed
- Packaged feed
- Liquid or semi - liquid feed
- Feed blocks or mineral licks

Note: (Analysis may be for analytical constituents, presence of undesirable substances)

Possible fertilisers to be sampled could include:

- Loose solid or fluid EC fertilisers in containers exceeding 100 kg
- Packaged solid or fluid EC fertilisers in containers not exceeding 100 kg
- Non - EC solid fertilisers in containers
- Non - EC loose solid fertilisers
- Non – EC fluid fertilisers

Referencing Legislation

ONLY Annex I Methods of Sampling - COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 152/2009 of 27 January 2009 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:054:0001:0130:EN:PDF>

ONLY Part A Annex IV Methods of sampling and analysis REGULATION (EC) No 2003/2003 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 October 2003 relating to fertilisers

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:304:0001:0194:en:PDF>

ONLY Schedule 1 Manner of taking, marking, sealing and fastening up of samples The Fertilisers (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations 1996

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1996/1342/schedule/1/made>

Sample Question (pass mark 40%):

You have been instructed by your manager to take a formal sample of 25kg bags of complete compound pelleted pig feed from a large feed manufacturer in your local authority area as part of your Services feed sampling programme.

On visiting the premises you look at what feed is available to sample and you find six pallets of 25kg bags of compound pig feed, with batch number ABC91234M. On pallet one you notice that ten of the bags are damaged. The table below shows the amount of feed on each pallet and the total quantity present. You intend to submit the sample for analysis of oils and fats, fibre, protein and ash analysis.

Pallet number Pallet	Quantity of feed	Total Quantity on Each
1	30x 25kg bags	
2	50 x 25kg bags	1250kg
3	10 x 25kg bags	250kg
4	50 X 25kg bags	1250kg
5	40 x 25kg bags	1000kg
6	40 X 25kg bags	1000kg
TOTAL QUANTITY OF FEED PRESENT = 5,500kg		

- (a) What would your sampled portion be? (1 mark)
- (b) How many incremental samples will you take? (1 mark)
- (c) How much should the aggregate sample weigh? (1 mark)
- (d) How many final samples should be prepared? (1 mark)
- (e) Who should receive a final sample? (3 mark)
- (f) You will find a bucket containing an aggregate sample of feed. Available are a selection of sampling apparatus, sampling containers, bags, seals and sampling paperwork. Prepare a single final sample from the aggregate sample of feed you have been presented with.

You must place your candidate number on the sample label where it states "Officers Name"

(13 marks)
Total of 20 marks