

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE MODULE EXAMINATIONS: MICRO-ESSAY QUESTIONS

Examinations for occupational hygiene module courses now comprise two papers:

- Section A: 40 short-answer questions
- Section B: 8 micro-essay questions

Candidates are advised to attempt all short-answer questions and are required to answer 5 of the 8 micro-essay questions. Guidance on answering short-answer questions is provided to candidates on the front page of the examination paper. The guidance set out below provides basic information on answering micro-essay questions.

Time and mark allocation

45 minutes is allowed for completion of the micro-essay section of the examination paper, giving candidates an average time of 9 minutes to answer each of the five questions. Each question is marked out of 20, giving a maximum of 100 marks for Section B.

Scope and structure of the questions

Micro-essay questions are drawn from the full range of the relevant occupational hygiene module course syllabus and are specific to that course. Questions may address a single topic, or several related aspects of a topic. Specimen micro-essay questions for occupational hygiene modules M101, M102 and M103 are attached to this guidance note.

Guidance on answering micro-essay questions

Candidates are expected to use good, grammatical English in their answers, although 'bullet point' lists are quite acceptable. Given the time constraints, candidates should avoid unnecessary 'padding' or setting out other irrelevant information in their answers; markers have been instructed not to award marks for material that is essentially irrelevant to the question.

Performance assessment

Up to 20 marks are awarded for each question, and a total mark of at least 50% is required to pass Section B. It should be noted that a pass mark is not necessarily required for each micro-essay question; it is perfectly possible, for example, for a candidate to pass Section B by providing comprehensive answers to three questions whilst failing to answer the remaining questions with the same degree of adequacy.

Feedback to candidates

Markers complete a proforma which includes a breakdown of marks awarded for each micro-essay question and comments on the candidate's individual answers. In the event of a candidate failing a Section B paper, the BOHS office can provide to that individual, on request, information on the reasons for failure.

Question No: M101-1	
A. What do you understand by the term “simple asphyxiant”? B. Identify TWO substances that are simple asphyxiants. C. Describe workplace situations in which each of the substances identified above may present a risk to health.	
Marking scheme:	Marks
A. <i>Definition</i>	5
B. <i>Examples</i>	5
C. <i>Workplace situations</i>	10
Notes for markers:	
The marking scheme should be used as the primary basis for awarding marks. However, markers may diverge from the scheme at their discretion, especially to award credit for candidates who take an alternative, technically correct approach to answering the question. Marks should not be awarded for information that is irrelevant to the question.	

Question No: M102-1	
Describe in some detail the procedure involved in using short-term colorimetric detector tubes to measure airborne concentrations of a gas or vapour	
Marking scheme:	Marks
Procedure should include the following elements: <i>List of elements</i>	20
Notes for markers:	
The marking scheme should be used as the primary basis for awarding marks. However, markers may diverge from the scheme at their discretion, especially to award credit for candidates who take an alternative, technically correct approach to answering the question. Marks should not be awarded for information that is irrelevant to the question.	

Question No: M103-1	
Set out the hierarchy of measures for prevention or control of exposure to hazardous substances embodied in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).	
Marking scheme:	Marks
Elements of the hierarchy: <i>List of elements</i>	20
Notes for markers:	
The marking scheme should be used as the primary basis for awarding marks. However, markers may diverge from the scheme at their discretion, especially to award credit for candidates who take an alternative, technically correct approach to answering the question. Marks should not be awarded for information that is irrelevant to the question.	