

## EXAMINERS REPORT | CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE

# Open Cut Examiner coal mines other than underground mines

December 2016

## Summary of overall written results

Date:	3 June 2016 and 25 August 2016
Number who passed:	OCE1 - 21 out of 30 OCE2 - 20 out of 27
Highest overall mark obtained:	82%
Average overall mark:	52.5%
Lowest overall mark:	17%

## OCE1 - Mining Legislation

Highest OCE1 mark obtained:	80%
Average OCE1 mark:	59.5%
Lowest OCE1 mark:	41%

## Question 1 (total 25 marks)

Highest mark obtained	21/25
Average overall mark:	13.5/25
Lowest overall mark:	8/25

### Examiners Comments

A practical question to test knowledge and apply the legislation to realistic scenarios that could occur at a mine. The questions required candidates to determine what action was required in each scenario, whether being a notifiable incident or not for a), b), c) and d). It was important that candidates ascertained if the incidents exposed workers to serious risk from immediate or imminent exposure. Where required answers should be supported by relevant assumptions particularly in determining if notifiable under either WHS(MP)R 2014 CI 179 or CI 128 or not required to be notified at all. To gain full marks candidates need to identify all requirements including applicable event, notification details and preservation of scene requirements. Part e) examined knowledge in regards to ABD sampling requirements relating to WHS(MP)R 2014 CI 115, 116 and 117, 118 and it was found many candidates either lacked knowledge or did not attempt.

## Question 2 (total 25 marks)

Highest mark obtained	20/25
Average overall mark:	15.5/25
Lowest overall mark:	6/25

### Examiners Comments

This question was designed to assess a candidate's ability to practically apply legislation to develop and implement a professional health monitoring program. Basic marks were obtained by referencing requirements under WHS(MP)R 2014 Cl 23 (1), 24, 25 and Schedule 1, Part 1, 3B. However a practical application of the legislation in regards to development and implementation of the plan involved reference to consultation, risk identification and consideration of control measures, review of control measures, provision of information, training and instruction as well as record keeping requirements prescribed by WHS Act and WH&S(MP)R 2014.

## Question 3 (total 25 marks)

Highest mark obtained	21/25
Average overall mark:	17/25
Lowest overall mark:	10/25

### Examiners Comments

This question was designed to assess a candidate's ability to apply legislation to a practical scenario. Application of tools including the 10 hurdles and Nertney Wheel proved to be valuable to candidates in covering all aspects required from this question. It was apparent that a number of candidates struggled to provide a comprehensive and organised response that the use of these tools may have assisted with.

## Question 4 (total 25 marks)

Highest mark obtained	22/25
Average overall mark:	13/25
Lowest overall mark:	0/25

### Examiners Comments

This question was designed to assess a candidate's ability to apply legislation to a practical scenario involving knowledge relating to entry to inquire into suspected contraventions by WHS entry permit holders and in particular WHS Act 2011 117, 119 (2) (b), 144, 145 and in 146 and in 138 (1,2,3,4). A number of candidates either did not attempt this question or parts of the question which brought the average marks down.

## OCE2 - Open Cut Mining Practice

Highest OCE2 mark obtained:	86.5%
Average OCE2 mark:	63.5%
Lowest OCE2 mark:	30.5%

### OCE2 Overall Examiners Comments

Overall, the candidates provided satisfactory responses. Strong candidates were able to apply responses with balanced legislative understanding along with practical mining practices. It was noted that some candidates failed to complete the questions in full, which could be avoided with an adequate time management approach. Lack of structured responses also let some candidates down.

### Question 1 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark obtained	42/50
Average overall mark:	34/50
Lowest overall mark:	20/50

#### Examiners Comments

This question was designed to test a candidate's ability to manage a significant change in a coal stockpile area. Strong responses identified the significant risks and applied practical controls to mitigate or minimise consequences. The chief hazards include vehicle interaction with the use of road trucks amongst mining and construction equipment, contractor management, construction activities, supervision and interaction with the public with the use of road trucks. Applying the Nertney Wheel or 10 hurdles would have assisted candidates in providing a structured response.

### Question 2 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark obtained	40/50
Average overall mark:	32.5/50
Lowest overall mark:	15/50

#### Examiners Comments

This question tested a candidate's ability to consider and manage typical environmental issues encountered in daily surface mining operations. Whilst most candidates adequately identified and managed environmental issues, key issues were missed by some candidates (e.g. lighting, noise and blast vibration/fume).

### Question 3 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark obtained	50/50
Average overall mark:	38.5/50
Lowest overall mark:	7/50

#### Examiners Comments

This question tested a candidate's ability to calculate salient parameters of a simple blast whilst also testing the general knowledge of shottfiring (e.g. product types and usage). Overall, the responses were strong with the average brought down by a few low scores. Simple mistakes cost some candidates easy marks, such as including stemming zone in explosive quantity calculations.

## Question 4 (total 50 marks) - Compulsory

Highest mark obtained	42/50
Average overall mark:	23 /50
Lowest overall mark:	7/50

### Examiners Comments

Overall, the responses to this question were below the expected understanding an open cut examiner should have for tyre management. Candidates who did not provide strong responses lacked a fundamental understanding of heat issues with different tyre types as well as practical measures to mitigate hot tyres.

## Question 5 (total 50 marks) - Compulsory

Highest mark obtained	45/50
Average overall mark:	33.5/50
Lowest overall mark:	20/50

### Examiners Comments

This question was designed to test a candidate's ability to clearly explain hazards and risks of introducing a large dragline into a fleet, to a site that currently only uses hydraulic machines. It was also testing a candidate's knowledge on the practical use of a dragline. Overall a range of good to poor responses were received, however some candidates failed to apply a practical application to working a dragline.

## Question 6 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark obtained	46/50
Average overall mark:	36/50
Lowest overall mark:	16/50

### Examiners Comments

Overall, responses to this question were good in relation to incident management. Knowledge of hazards associated with capping tailings dams was generally good. Some responses had minimal explanation of the actions taken causing marks to be deducted and did not spend sufficient time on the question.

## Summary of oral results

Date:	29 and 30 September 2016
Number of candidates:	27
Candidates deemed competent:	12

### Examiners Comments

A range of topics were examined during the oral exams. Areas where candidates were strong include contents of Safety Management Systems, Inspection systems, incident management and practical mining methods.

Where some candidates showed weaknesses was a structured methodical approach, shotfiring, misfire management or engaging in a task without proper risk assessment processes completed.

## More information

NSW Department of Industry  
Governance Branch  
Mining Competence Team

T: 02 4931 6625

Email: [minesafety.competence@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:minesafety.competence@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Acknowledgments

Open Cut Examiner Coal mines other than underground mines Examination Panel

---

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development 2016. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development or the user's independent advisor.

PUB16/565