

EXAMINER'S REPORT

Open cut examiner of coal mines other than underground mines

June to September 2019

Written examination

Summary of results

Examination date:	5 June 2019
Number candidates:	40
Number who passed:	19
Highest overall mark:	79%
Average overall mark:	60%
Lowest overall mark:	23%

OCE1 – Mining legislation

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date:	5 June 2019
Number of candidates:	39
Number who passed:	20
Highest mark:	87%
Average mark:	55%

Lowest mark: 28%

Question 1 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 19

Average mark: 8

Lowest mark: 2

Examiner's comments

Knowledge of consultation requirements was lacking in a number of candidates. Workers duties were generally known, except for some candidates which was surprising and somewhat disappointing.

Question 2 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 16

Average mark: 5

Lowest mark: 0

Examiner's comments

Overall, knowledge of Health & Safety Committees was poor.

Question 3 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 19

Average mark: 9

Lowest mark: 3

Examiner's comments

This was a question targeted at the statutory function of an OCE. The average mark was dragged down by some obviously poorly prepared candidates.

Question 4 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 20

Average mark: 11.5

Lowest mark: 4

Examiner's comments

Many candidates achieved good to very high marks in this fundamental question. The average mark was dragged down by some obviously poorly prepared candidates. Some candidates may have struggled with time management and would benefit with better preparation in summarising the responses as required by the question i.e. 'List and summarise'.

Question 5 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 18

Average mark: 10.5

Lowest mark: 3

Examiner's comments

Part a) and b) were generally well covered. Part c) and d) of the question demonstrated a lack of knowledge in PHMP's and their review requirements by some candidates. Again, the average mark was dragged down by some obviously poorly prepared candidates.

OCE2 – Practical open cut operation**Summary of results and general comments**

Exam date: 5 June 2019

Number of candidates: 28

Number who passed: 17

Highest mark: 80.5%

Average mark: 61.7%

Lowest mark: 38%

Question 1 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark: 42

Average mark: 30

Lowest mark: 15

Examiner's comments

This question assessed the candidates' knowledge on reclaim tunnels and stockpile management, including the risks and controls that are typically present. Overall, the responses were mixed with some candidates answering the question well and others answering it poorly. Candidates who scored highly were able to clearly describe a systematic process for reviewing a specific task, what information they would seek in conducting that review, the significant risks associated with stockpile and reclaim tunnel activities and what controls are available to mitigate these risks.

Question 2 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark: 45

Average mark: 33.5

Lowest mark: 16

Examiner's comments

This question assessed the candidates' knowledge and management of heavy earthmoving tyres in an open cut application. It also tests the candidate's ability to respond to a tyre emergency. Generally, candidates responded adequately to this question, with those who performed well demonstrating a strong understanding of tyre management.

Those who did not perform well lacked understanding of heavy earthmoving tyres and did not attempt parts of the question.

Question 3 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark: 41

Average mark: 26.5

Lowest mark: 7

Examiner's comments

This question covered the general rules and assumptions associated with blast design and practical shotfiring issues. Overall, there was a below average response for this question, where candidates were observed not to have read the question properly and provided an inaccurate answer. Parts of the questions were not attempted, suggesting lack of knowledge in this area.

Question 4 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark: 43

Average mark: 33

Lowest mark: 21

Examiner's comments

The question was answered adequately by the majority of the candidates. Higher scoring answers exhibited clear actions and displayed knowledge of scene management, information gathering, reporting and return to work process. They also displayed knowledge of machine recovery, incident investigation and potential causal factors.

Fundamental incident management process (gathering evidence) and reporting (ISHR & SSHR) was missed by a few candidates.

Oral examination

Summary of results and general comments

Date: 24 and 25 September 2019

Number of candidates: 25

Number deemed competent: 6

General comments (examiner observations)

- Some candidates did not use a risk based and sequential process approach to their responses i.e. used a "scatter gun" approach.
- Candidates must not underestimate the importance of associated non-technical skills. E.g. being able to communicate the process that they need to go through in certain events and demonstrating leadership qualities. Candidates would benefit from going to the Resource Regulator website and reviewing Assessing Associated Non-Technical Skills (ANTS) competencies for certificates of competence.
- Candidates would benefit from more exposure to incident response, planning and/or preparation of areas to give them more practice in following process.
- A thorough knowledge of notifiable incident reporting requirements was lacking in a number of candidates.
- It is evident that a number of candidates are not thinking at the appropriate level required for an OCE.
- Inspection system knowledge was disappointingly lacking in a number of candidates.

- Candidates need to broaden their exposure to more than coal and partings e.g. maintenance, CHPP, D&B.
- Successful candidates displayed strong process knowledge and paused to reflect on the next step before articulating their response.
- It is evident from the overall performance in the oral examinations that candidates are not preparing to the standard required. An example of this is the lack of knowledge in the most basic areas relevant to the statutory role being assessed that candidates should be well versed in. Examiners recommend that candidates;
 - Pursue opportunities in step up roles to gain further exposure to the level of thinking required for the statutory role being assessed
 - Develop a clearly defined study plan to ensure sufficient preparation time is organised and completed
 - Ensure participation in mock orals to develop skills and confidence in applying knowledge and associated non-technical skills under examination conditions.

More information

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Acknowledgments

Open cut examiner of coal mines other than underground examination panel

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DOC19/927026