

Open cut examiner of coal mines other than underground mines

Examiners' report August 2017

Summary of overall written results

Date:	2 June 2017
Number who passed:	OCE1 - 16 out of 36 OCE2 - 28 out of 35
Highest overall mark obtained:	84%
Average overall mark obtained:	63%
Lowest overall mark obtained:	31%

OCE1 - Mining legislation

All four (4) questions are to be attempted.

Highest OCE1 mark obtained:	90%
Average OCE1 mark obtained:	53.5%
Lowest OCE1 mark obtained:	30%

OCE1 Overall examiners' comments

Question 1 (total 30 marks)

Highest overall mark:	26/30
Average overall mark:	15/30
Lowest overall mark:	7/30

Examiners' comments

A large number of candidates gave or attempted to give the relevant clause under the regulations to which the notifiable incident/scenario applied. However, the question asks "With reference to all relevant legislation what are the requirements for each of the incidents...?". Therefore more than just the applicable categorisation is required including; requirements for non- disturbance, method of notification required including timeframes, notifications to the regulator and IS&H Representatives, reporting and

recording requirements. Those that achieved higher marks also included reference to record keeping requirements and review of control measures under Cl 38 of the regulations.

Question 2 (total 20 marks)

Highest overall mark: 18/20

Average overall mark: 10/20

Lowest overall mark: 3/20

Examiners' comments

Most candidates were able to reference the requirements under clause 44 Alcohol and Drugs in relation to a requirement to manage risks. Key Employer responsibilities that were not covered in many cases included (but not limited to) the basic requirements under the WH&S Act 17 management of risks, 19 Primary duty of care as well as 47, 48 and 49 relating to consultation or alternatively WH&S(MP)Regulation Cl 121(f) (i). Those who achieved high marks also referenced WH&S Regulation requirements relating to Part 3.1 Managing risks to health and safety. Most candidates identified Employee responsibilities as being WH&S Act Cl 28 Duties of workers.

Question 3 (total 30 marks)

Highest overall mark: 27/30

Average overall mark: 17.5/30

Lowest overall mark: 5/30

Examiners' comments

Generally, candidates managed to answer part (a) and (b) of the question adequately. However part (c) review requirements, many candidates did not reference the fundamental requirements in WHS(MP) Reg Cl10 and in (d) role of workers under WHS(MP) Reg Cl120.

Question 4 (total 20 marks)

Highest overall mark: 20/20

Average overall mark: 11/20

Lowest overall mark: 0/20

Examiners' comments

Generally, most candidates were able to reference the relevant clauses/schedule in the WHS (MP) Regulations. Many candidates did not provide any additional detail apart from providing reference to the clause number etc. This may have been due to poor exam technique in some cases.

OCE2 - Open cut mining practise

Only four (4) of the six (6) questions are to be attempted.

Questions 4 & 5 are compulsory.

All questions are of equal value, 50 marks however, parts of the question may vary.

Highest OCE2 mark obtained: 90%

Average OCE2 mark obtained: 64.5%

Lowest OCE2 mark obtained: 31.5%

Question 1 - Slope stability (total 50 marks)

Highest overall mark: 40/50

Average overall mark: 32/50

Lowest overall mark: 21/50

Examiners' comments

This question tested the candidates' knowledge of geotechnical hazards in a practical mining application. Candidates who scored well were able to identify impacts of faulting in highwalls as well as a safe access for personnel to travel. They also were able to outline procedures and systems they could use to ensure a repeatable process is followed that was able to detect and mitigate the risks associated with the situation.

Overall, the candidates' responses were satisfactory.

Question 2 - Explosives (total 50 marks)

Highest overall mark: 47/50

Average overall mark: 35/50

Lowest overall mark: 5/50

Examiners' comments

This question tested the candidates' ability to introduce new technology into the blasting environment. Candidates who scored well were able to identify key changes to the blast hole loading process and relate them to activities undertaken on the shot. They would also perform monitoring and review to determine the effectiveness of the system prior to the shot being fired.

Overall, candidates provided satisfactory responses.

Question 3 - Spontaneous combustion (total 50 marks)

Highest overall mark: 50/50

Average overall mark: 36/50

Lowest overall mark: 8/50

Examiners' comments

This question tested the candidates' knowledge of spontaneous combustion, its causes and controls. A scenario was put forward where a worker becomes ill from the effects of spontaneous combustion fumes and tested the candidates' response to the situation. Candidates who marked highly were well versed in spontaneous combustion and had practical controls for remediating the hazard. They also were able to address the issue of the affected worker and correctly identified the requirement to report the incident to the regulator after receiving medical treatment for exposure to a substance.

Overall, candidates provided above-average responses.

Question 4 - Underground workings (total 50 marks) - Compulsory

Highest overall mark: 48/50

Average overall mark: 31.5/50

Lowest overall mark: 16/50

Examiners' comments

This question tested the candidates' knowledge of underground workings as well as processes involved in determining and controlling the risks. Candidates who scored highly were able to identify most of the hazards, and determine effective controls to manage the risk. Furthermore, they must have been able to identify the increased risk posed by secondary extraction and enhanced controls to control the higher risks.

Overall, candidates provided average responses.

Question 5 - Environmental (total 50 marks) - Compulsory

Highest overall mark: 47/50

Average overall mark: 30/50

Lowest overall mark: 13/50

Examiners' comments

This question tested the candidates' knowledge on environmental incident response and control measures to eliminate or reduce the risk of reoccurrence. Candidates who scored highly were able to implement immediate controls while also identifying and controlling other hazards or further

environmental risk that could occur in implementing the immediate controls. They were also able to identify what management systems were relevant and what further controls could be implemented.

Overall, candidates provided average responses.

Question 6 - Rope shovel incident (total 50 marks)

Highest overall mark: 47/50

Average overall mark: 34.5/50

Lowest overall mark: 18/50

Examiners' comments

This question tested the candidates' knowledge on incident response, investigation requirements and an understanding of reporting requirements post incident. Candidates who scored highly were able to clearly describe what information they need to enable a timely response, what their immediate actions were including making the area safe and preserving the scene, whether it was a reportable event and a clear description of an incident investigation process with a list of possible causes that would need to be investigated.

Overall, candidates provided above-average responses.

Summary of oral results

Date: 2 March 2017

Number of candidates: 16

Candidates deemed competent: 9

Examiners' comments

Date: 10 August 2017

Number of candidates: 22

Candidates deemed competent: 9

Examiners' comments

Candidates generally performed at either end of the spectrum, that is, being well prepared to being poorly prepared. Candidates who performed well identified where they deficient in the written or previous oral exams, and focussed on improving those areas.

General observations on poorly performing candidates was a lack of legislative knowledge and/or lack of systematic or structured responses leading to far too much prompting from the examiners.

More information

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Acknowledgments

Open cut examiner of coal mines other than underground mines Examination Panel

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