

May 2023 – November 2023

Examiners' report

Deputy of underground coal mines certificate of competence

Examiners' report 2023

Written examination

DEP – Coal mining practice and legislation

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 24 May 2023

Number of candidates: 75

Number who passed: 69

Highest mark: 93.5

Average mark: 72.1

Lowest mark: 31

Question 1 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 7.6

Lowest mark: 2

Examiners' comments:

This is straight from the Regulations

Question 2 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 6.1

Lowest mark: 0

Examiners' comments:

Use a 3 / 4 / 5 Triangle on the breakaway centre.

To check repeat on the inbye side & outbye side of centre.

Question 3 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 6.9

Lowest mark: 2

Examiners' comments:

Straight from the Regulations.

Question 4 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 8.9

Lowest mark: 4.5

Examiners' comments:

You need to know the Gas Chart.

Question 5 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 6.6

Lowest mark: 2

Examiners' comments:

Always read the previous reports. See what work was done at pit bottom last shift.

Usually the pit bottom Double Doors are open or slightly open.

"Stage" them closed.

Question 6 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 6.3

Lowest mark: 0

Examiners' comments:

This is a common task on a Longwall face.

Basic knowledge of shotfiring.

Question 7 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 9.5

Average mark: 7

Lowest mark: 2

Examiners' comments:

A 7 x Heading layout.

These are becoming more common.

Question 8 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 8.2

Lowest mark: 2

Examiners' comments:

A "Ventilation Survey" is a common task for a Deputy.

Question 9 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 7.3

Lowest mark: 2.5

Examiners' comments:

Scene preservation after an incident is so important.

After a Gas ignition, this means anything to do with the ventilation to that area.

Gathering information needs to be done immediately after verifying all persons are accounted for.

Question 10 (total of 10 marks)

Highest mark: 9

Average mark: 6.9

Lowest mark: 4

Examiners' comments:

6 x Place Change Hazards.

- Entering unsupported roof
- Machine / person interaction
- Cable Damage / Management
- Ventilation
- Dust – CM Scrubber.
- Recovery of Buried Machines

Oral examination

Date: 18 & 19 Jul 2023

Number of candidates: 82

Number deemed competent: 31

Examiners comments:

The 3 x worst answered questions

- Emergency Response
- Degassing with an Auxiliary fan
- Degassing with Brattice

Post Oral examination

Date: 6 Nov 2023

Number of candidates: 47

Number deemed competent: 27

Examiners' comments:

All Candidates need to know “their” Mine.

This includes all the other areas, not just the section you work in.

There was a detailed “briefing session” prior to the written exam.

There was a very detailed “briefing session” prior to the 2nd round of orals.

- The information & assistance to pass these exams is there.
- It is up to each Candidate to put in the effort to earn the right to gain this Certificate.

More information

Regional NSW

Resources Regulator

Mining Competence Team

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Acknowledgments

Deputy of underground coal mines certificate of competence examination panel

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing March 2023. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.

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