

Open cut examiner of coal mines other than underground mines

June to August 2018

Written examination

Summary of results and general comments

Examination date:	1 June 2018
Number candidates:	64
Number who passed:	36
Highest overall mark:	88%
Average overall mark:	66%
Lowest overall mark:	48%

OCE1 – Mining legislation

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date:	1 June 2018
Number of candidates:	63
Number who passed:	34
Highest mark:	86%
Average mark:	56%
Lowest mark:	25%

Question 1 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark:	20
Average mark:	13
Lowest mark:	7

Examiner's comments

Part (a) – (c) generally answered adequately by most candidates. Some candidates lost marks in part (d) which relates to WHS Reg 2017 CI 36 Hierarchy of control measures.

Question 2 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 19

Average mark: 12

Lowest mark: 3

Examiner's comments

Some candidates lacked thoroughness when answering part (b) which called for all requirements that must be met in relation to the incident. This was particularly notable in the areas of notification to IS&HR's, recording of incident and review of control measures.

Question 3 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 19

Average mark: 10

Lowest mark: 0

Examiner's comments

Generally, candidates adequately covered part (a) and (b), however part (c) which referred to the 'default procedure' as described in WHS Reg 2017 Cl 23 (1) – (9) was not identified by several candidates.

Question 4 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 20

Average mark: 10

Lowest mark: 0

Examiner's comments

Generally, most candidates covered part (a) however a number of candidates answered part (b) poorly which relates to the very topical hazard of airborne dust in coal mines; particularly the requirements WHS (M&PS) Reg 2014 Schedule 6, Part 3 Other Coal Mines Sampling, 7 (1), (2), (3).

Question 5 (total of 20 marks)

Highest mark: 20

Average mark: 10

Lowest mark: 0

Examiner's comments

It appears that candidates either did well or poorly in this question. Some of this may be due to poor examination technique and/or time management.

OCE2 – Practical open cut operation

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date:	1 June 2018
Number of candidates:	51
Number who passed:	47
Highest mark:	89%
Average mark:	72%
Lowest mark:	56%

Question 1 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark:	46
Average mark:	34
Lowest mark:	20

Examiner's 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:

- ✓ the information they need to enable a timely response
- ✓ their immediate actions, including making the area safe and preserving the scene
- ✓ whether it was a reportable event and
- ✓ the incident investigation process with a list of possible causes that would need to be investigated.

Question 2 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark:	49
Average mark:	34
Lowest mark:	0

Examiner's comments

The candidates' responses were generally of an above average standard for this question, which tested their ability to perform basic shottfiring calculations as well as practical solutions to common problems with overloaded blast holes.

Question 3 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark: 45

Average mark: 37

Lowest mark: 25

Examiner's comments

This question tested the candidates' knowledge on an introduction of plant system that required significant operational changes in the mining environment. Candidates that performed well were able to clearly describe the process required for such a change and the changes required.

Question 4 (total 50 marks)

Highest mark: 50

Average mark: 38

Lowest mark: 28

Examiner's comments

The candidates' responses were of a high standard, with no candidates falling below a pass mark. Most candidates were able to use the Nertney Wheel model for data collection and were able to adequately apply this data into a practical solution to a common problem with contracted operations.

Oral examination

Date: 29 August 2018

Number of candidates: 41

Number deemed competent: 15

General comments

- ✓ Lack of candidate preparation appears to be an ongoing theme
- ✓ Examiners are seeing some fundamental/safety critical information being omitted from responses
- ✓ Candidates would benefit from greater step up experience and more mine visits
- ✓ Endeavouring to gain greater exposure to mock orals would benefit candidates in an oral examination situation.

More information

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Acknowledgments

Open cut examiner of coal mines other than underground examination panel

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