

# THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1874

Registered Charity No. 212025

## EXAMINATION FOR PROFICIENCY IN APICULTURE MODULE 1 HONEYBEE MANAGEMENT

24<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Time Allowed 1½ hours

Candidate Number:

### *Instructions to Candidates*

Read the questions carefully. Answer All Sections. It is recommended not to spend more than 10 minutes on Section A, 50 minutes on Section B or 30 minutes on Section C.

Unless stated otherwise questions apply to Honeybees.

Use **BLACK** pen for text. **Black** pencil may only be used for diagrams. **DO NOT USE COLOURS.**

Please start each question on a new side of paper.

### Examiner Use Only

Question	Sec A	B11	B12	B13	B14	B15	C16	C17	Total
Mark									
Moderated									

### SECTION A (10 marks, 1 for each question)

Answer **ALL** the questions in this section. Use one or two word or short phrase answers.

- Q1 What is the dimension of spacing with Hoffman spacers? .....
- Q2 Which hive in common use in the UK has the smallest brood capacity? .....
- Q3 Name 2 types of queen excluder. ....
- Q4 Name a device used in clearing bees from a super. ....
- Q5 Name 2 types of feeder used for autumn feeding. ....
- Q6 How often should a colony with a clipped queen be inspected during summer to control swarming? .....
- Q7 What weight of stores does an average colony require to survive winter? .....
- Q8 Other than sugar and/or fondant, what else might a beekeeper feed in Spring? .....
- Q9 Name 2 external factors affecting the temper of a colony. ....
- Q10 Give a way by which drifting can be minimised. ....

**PLEASE HAND IN THIS SHEET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION**



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## SECTION B (60 marks, 15 for each question)

Answer any **FOUR** questions from this section. Write short notes for your answers. Marks

- Q11 (a) Briefly describe a method, and precautions needed, when using hands to catch, hold and then to clip the wings of a queen. 6
- (b) Give two other methods of restraining a queen for marking, outline the advantages and disadvantages of each method. 9
- Q12 Once queen cells are present in a colony, outline a method of swarm control suitable for a small scale beekeeping enterprise. 15
- Q13 (a) Outline the method of assembling a frame and fitting it with wired foundation. 8
- (b) Briefly describe how a frame is wired and fitted with foundation. Include the methods used to embed the wire into the foundation. 7
- Q14 (a) List the steps to be taken to make up a nucleus for sale to a beginner beekeeper, for delivery in midsummer. 12
- (b) How would a mating nucleus differ from the nucleus for sale? 3
- Q15 (a) Explain the signs of queenlessness and how a beekeeper could confirm this condition. 7
- (b) Describe the differences between a colony containing a drone laying queen and laying workers. 8

## SECTION C (30 marks)

Answer **ONE** question from this section. Give *labelled* diagrams where applicable.

- Q16 Detail the management of honeybee colonies in order to maximise honey production from heather. Include the timing, preparation and moving of hives to the heather, their management on the crop and their return to the home apiary. 30
- Q17 Outline the content of an 'Introduction to Beekeeping' talk to a group of potential new beekeepers to cover the following topics: 30
- reason for keeping bees;
  - acquisition of bees;
  - acquisition of all necessary equipment;
  - advice on selecting the apiary site.