

EXAMINER'S REPORT

Quarry manager of mines other than underground mines or coal mines certificate of competence

May 2022

Written examination

Paper 1 - Part A – Legislation knowledge

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 01 December 2021

Number of candidates: 5

Number who passed: 2

Highest mark: 62%

Average mark: 53.1%

Lowest mark: 36.5%

Question 1 (total of 15 marks) WHS duties, obligations, and legislation

Highest mark: 11.0

Average mark: 7.0

Lowest mark: 1.0

Examiners' comments – The better candidates were able to match which Acts and Regulations aligned with the requested subjects. They also had a good understanding of clause 19 WHSA requirements when ensuring a safe workplace. The poorer candidates did not even answer the question.

Question 2 (total of 5 marks) Statutory Functions

Highest mark: 4.0

Average mark: 3.0

Lowest mark: 2.0

Examiners' comments – A series of multiple-choice questions that tested the candidate's knowledge of statutory functions for open cut mines. The marks are self-explanatory.

Question 3 (total of 5 marks) Codes, standards, and guidelines

Highest mark: 4.0

Average mark: 2.5

Lowest mark: 1.0

Examiners' comments – A series of multiple-choice questions that tested the candidate's knowledge of the codes, standards and guidelines that relate to an open cut mine. The marks are self-explanatory.

Question 4 (total of 10 marks) High risk activities

Highest mark: 10.0

Average mark: 6.5

Lowest mark: 3.0

Examiners' comments – This question assessed the candidate's knowledge of high-risk licences required on site and the process for notifying the regulator when a high-risk activity is undertaken. The top performer scored full marks, while the poorer performers had little understanding of the notification process.

Question 5 (total of 15 marks) Blasting, legislation, and standards

Highest mark: 10

Average mark: 8.75

Lowest mark: 7.0

Examiners' comments – While three of the five candidates passed this question, non-one was close to gaining full marks. The question focused on licencing requirements, Australian Standard parameters, and reporting obligations.

Question 6 (total of 15 marks) Atmospheric monitoring

Highest mark: 8.5

Average mark: 6.8

Lowest mark: 4.0

Examiners' comments – This question was poorly answered by several (most) candidates. They did not know the permissible legislated exposure limits for dust and particulates, what the SEG and TWA acronyms stood for and were not able to explain the requirements of health monitoring.

Question 7 (total of 15 marks) Safety Management Systems

Highest mark: 9.5

Average mark: 7.8

Lowest mark: 6.0

Examiners' comments – This question was designed to test a candidate's understanding of a safety management system's (SMS) content and layout. It also focused on managing contractors and the requirements of the (SMS) management structure. It was not well answered by candidates.

Question 8 (total of 10 marks) Principal Hazard Management Plans & Principal Control Plans

Highest mark: 8.3

Average mark: 6.8

Lowest mark: 4.5

Examiners' comments – This question assessed the candidate's knowledge of what PHMP's & PCP's were, how they are prepared, what schedule must be considered during the preparation and who must be involved. The better candidates had a good understanding of the life cycle approach.

Question 9 (total of 10 marks) Incidents and Notices

Highest mark: 5.5

Average mark: 4.5

Lowest mark: 3.0

Examiners' comments – This question was designed to assess the candidates understanding of their incident reporting obligations and the name and purpose of the most typically used notices by an Inspector. Overall, this question was poorly done, with candidates not understanding the purpose of notices and how they apply to the workplace they are managing.

Paper 2 - Part B – Legislation knowledge and application

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 01 December 2021

Number of candidates: 4

Number who passed: 2

Highest mark: 75.0%

Average mark: 63.25%

Lowest mark: 48.0%

Question 1 (total 10 marks) Securing information relevant to supervising risk

Highest mark: 9.0

Average mark: 5.5

Lowest mark: 3.0

Examiners' comments – This question assessed the candidate's knowledge of the supporting information required when a new company takes over a site. It included their knowledge of what was in the 'mine record', notifying the regulator and what information should be in the mine's induction program. Candidates varied markedly from very good to very poor.

Question 2 (total 15 marks) Mine Design and Planning

Highest mark: 14.0

Average mark: 11

Lowest mark: 8.5

Examiners' comments – This question was designed to assess the candidate's technical knowledge relating to mine design and slope stability and the documentation (plans) that are required to support their decision making. Full marks were nearly achieved by one candidate, while all candidates passed this question.

Question 3 (total 15 marks) Roads and Other Vehicle Operating Areas (ROVOA)

Highest mark: 13.5

Average mark: 11

Lowest mark: 5.5

Examiners' comments – Vehicle incidents in the open cut mining sector continue to be the highest reported incidents by frequency and outcome year in and year out. The question required candidates to list the ROVOA hazards that require review after receiving a safety alert from the regulator. It also required candidates to design an intersection and to list the information required when assessing vehicles 'fit for purpose' requirements. Generally, this question was answered well.

Question 4 (total of 20 marks) Blasting (practical)

Highest mark: 15

Average mark: 10.25

Lowest mark: 4.5

Examiners' comments – Given that there is no longer a mandated requirement for candidates to hold a Blasting Explosives Users Licence (BEUL) or have participated in 12 blasts the examination panel deemed

it necessary to assess a candidate's practical knowledge and application of blasting practices. Candidates who had experience in blasting scored well in this question, those that had little to no blasting experience struggled.

Question 5 (total of 15 marks) Dust Management and Health Monitoring

Highest mark: 11.5

Average mark: 7.75

Lowest mark: 4.5

Examiners' comments – This question was poorly done by three (3) of the candidates. They did not demonstrate a good understanding of the lifecycle approach to managing dust exceedances and could not explain how they were going to implement a health monitoring program based on the lowering of the national standard, including workers who are at significant risk.

Question 6 (total of 10 marks) Communication and Change Management

Highest mark: 8.0

Average mark: 5.0

Lowest mark: 1.0

Examiners' comments – This question sort to assess a candidate's understanding of change management processes and multi shift communication requirements. Two (2) candidates gave quality answers while two (2) candidates had very little understanding of the approach.

Question 7 (total of 15 marks) Ensuring others have access to information

Highest mark: 14.0

Average mark: 13.0

Lowest mark: 12.0

Examiners' comments – All candidates did well in this question and all had a good understanding of the necessary control plans and information required by supervisors and workers to perform their tasks.

Oral examination

Date: 11 May 2022

Number of candidates: 3

Number deemed competent: 1

Examiners' comments

The successful candidate answered the oral questions extremely well and was able to articulate his decision-making process clearly and confidently for all scenarios. The candidate had good technical knowledge, which was supported by sound associated non-technical skills (ANTS).

Of the two (2) candidates that were found not yet competent, one (1) could not demonstrate to the examination panel they had sufficient knowledge, skills and experience in managing blasting practices, particularly when dealing with shot design and situations where in field measurements (burden) did not match the design and alterations were required to fire the shot safely.

The second candidate failed to demonstrate to the panel they had the necessary leadership, decision making, communication and management skills to lead a team and to ensure that the team remained engaged. This candidate also required further experience in slope stability and mine planning.

More information

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Acknowledgments

Quarry manager of mines other than underground mines or coal mines examination panel

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