

Certificate of Professional Competence - Managing National Road Haulage - Unit 4 (05608) September 2007

On this occasion most candidates struggled to apply their knowledge to the situation described in the scenario. To assist training centres I have given a brief resume of the questions as a reference (note they may not be the exact wording on the paper). For the candidates who were unable to answer the questions fully or to attract good marks for their work, I have stated the main causes for this.

Question number:	1
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<p>With regards to the 'O' licence, identify the criteria which OCR will need to meet in order to gain the necessary licences for the enlarged company. For each criterion identified, indicate what evidence OCR would need to provide in order to satisfy the Traffic Commissioners. (Do not include in your answer any items that concern any of the undertakings made on the application form).</p>

Most candidates could identify the criteria although many still stated all the undertakings as well (but were not penalised for this). Very few were able to say what was acceptable as evidence. We do not, as many candidates think, pay the commissioner a cheque for €9000 for the first vehicle and €5000 for subsequent vehicles; this proves the requirement of this type. The most common answer given by the majority of candidates was how to apply for a licence.

Question number:	2
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| <p>(a) The 7500kg two-axled box vans are 2yrs 6months old. You would have depreciated them over 4yrs with the hope of realising a residual (resale) value of £6750. Based on this information and that given in the scenario, if you were to sell one of these vehicles today what price (not including tyres) would you have to obtain, to break even in this situation? You must show all your workings and calculations used to arrive at your answer.</p> <p>(b) What are the fixed costs for the return route Carrickfergus to Dundee (itemise each component part and show all your calculations).</p> |
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- (a) Some candidates were able to carry out some form of calculation and arrive at the annual rate but only a handful could then go on to work out the current value of the vehicle. This question is set at level three and the vast majority of candidates were not able to show any evidence of competence in their answer.
- (b) Very few candidates were able to calculate the standing and fixed costs for the route. The route took two days and the drivers were paid a fixed daily wage and a night out allowance. Very few candidates put this or the cost of the ferry in their costs, including

instead the cost of fuel and tyres. Few candidates included the depreciation in their figures. Less than five candidates in a hundred were able gain substantial marks for this part of the question.

Question number:	3
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Draw up a drivers' schedule for the route Manchester, Newcastle, Carlisle, Manchester finishing at the earliest time possible.
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The question was about when breaks need to be taken. 30% of candidates wrote a schedule that became illegal at the first stop thus very few marks could be awarded for their answer. Many candidates added an extra break, which prevented them gaining the available marks for the schedule. Other candidates failed to take the second required break thus again producing an illegal schedule. Approximately less than 10% of candidates produce a good correct legal schedule.

Question number:	4
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The company secretary has asked you to provide her with a briefing note concerning the PG forms received by the RSA Welsh operation. Explain the purpose of each of these forms and the circumstances in which they would be issued.
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Most candidates showed a level of competency in this area of the syllabus. Few could explain the use of all the forms but in the main the question was well answered.

Summary for Section A

The examiners committee members and pre-evaluators all considered the question paper to be fair and well balanced and I can only therefore conclude that the candidates were taught answers to questions that were not asked. This caused candidates to struggle to come to terms with the real question on the paper.

Question number:	5
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In respect of the report regarding load security, you have decided to include a copy of the instructions you will be issuing to all loading staff and drivers. This document is designed to help ensure that any damage to goods is limited to a minimum and the opportunity for theft is eliminated as much as possible.

Draft a document for your drivers giving FOUR instructions which will assist with reducing damage to goods during the loading of the vehicle and during the journey. Give THREE separate instructions which will reduce the possibility of theft during the journey to the consignees.
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The question was answered well by most of the candidates. Only a handful of candidates wrote their answer as instructions thus failing to gain the available marks for this. Very few candidates were able to write good instructions regarding security.

Question number:	6
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| (a) | Ensuring that you cover the statutory requirements, describe the disciplinary procedure to deal with the qualified fitter, who it has been alleged is signing off work carried out by the apprentices without checking it. |
| (b) | Explain, using best practice, the process for changing an employee's contract of employment in the first instance. Should this fail, what would the continuing process involve? |
| (c) | With regard to the new contract of employment, describe the information it must contain relating specifically to wages, holidays, continuous employment and working hours. |

- (a) Most candidates gave the old answer of a verbal warning followed by three written warnings which is nothing like the current requirements.
- (b) A few candidates had an idea that it could result in redundancy but had little knowledge of best practice.
- (c) Very few candidates bothered to read the question. Most just wrote a list of the items to be included in the contract but failed to answer the question.

Question number:	7
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Using the table of actual performance below, identify each week any significant variances between the actual figures achieved and the budgeted figures given in the scenario. For each variance identified, suggest TWO possible causes.
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Very few candidates were able to provide evidence of competence for this part of the syllabus.

Question number:	8
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With regard to the movements of abnormal indivisible loads, identify and explain SIX additional costs you may incur over and above that of a normal movement of the pallet work in the current contract.
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The common answer given by candidates was the requirements and notification of how to move the load. The question did ask about the cost implications which only a handful of candidates took into account when attempting to answer the question.

Summary for Section B

Candidates performed better on Section B than Section A on the whole but still very few showed evidence of competence.