

**Certificate of Professional Competence - Managing
 National Road Haulage Transport Operations - Unit 4
 (05608) December 2010**

General

A small majority of candidates scored sufficient marks to pass section A. However, unlike previous examinations, a large majority of candidates performed exceptionally well in section B

As regards grammar, spelling and expression, most candidates managed reasonably well in all of these areas, making the question papers easy to correct. The only problem I encountered with a small minority of candidates was their illegible handwriting which made accurate marking extremely difficult.

Question number:	1
From the information given in the scenario, draw up a legal driver's hours schedule for Contract Two using the 18 tonne GVW box van. (All breaks and rest periods must be taken as late as legally possible. Breaks cannot be taken at collection points:-they may be taken at delivery points but this is not essential).	
Assessment objective reference:	2

Whilst a number of candidates attained full marks in this question, the majority lost marks by making the following errors:-

- 1 Taking a break at 08.00 hours at a collection point.
- 2 Taking a break at 12.30 before completing 4 .5 hours driving.
- 3 Unloading at Kilmamock after 4.5 hours driving rendering the schedule illegal.

Question number:	2
<p>If you are successful in winning the contracts outlined in the scenario, it will be necessary to purchase/acquire larger vehicles. In relation to Operator licensing:</p> <p>A Identify FOUR administrative steps you will have to take when applying for the licence.</p> <p>B Describe how you would meet FOUR of the required criteria to obtain the relevant Operators licence and the supporting evidence that would be required</p>	
Assessment objective reference:	8

As there was plenty of scope in this question, most candidates performed very well and gained full marks.

Question number:	3
<p>With the potential acquisition of the new vehicles being imminent, you need to decide where and how the vehicles will be maintained.</p> <p>A Outline TWO advantages of maintaining the vehicles in-house.</p> <p>B Outline TWO advantages of out-sourcing the maintenance of the vehicles.</p> <p>C Outline the key components of a planned maintenance system as specified in the VOSA Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness</p>	
Assessment objective reference:	12

Whilst sections (a) and (b) were well answered, many candidates misread section (c), giving answers like, 'brake testing equipment', 'headlight aligning equipment', 'large enough premises', etc. Those who interpreted the question correctly gave the following acceptable answers:

- 1 Set up daily walk round check system.
- 2 Set up defect report system.
- 3 Have a system of regular vehicle inspections.
- 4 Ensure regular maintenance/servicing is carried out, etc.

Question number:	4
<p>From the information in the scenario, produce two quotations for the first year in relation to Contract One. This will require quotations for 2 x 3.5 tonne GVW vehicles (one destined for Berwick, the other for Carlisle) and 1 x 7.5 tonne GVW vehicle (carrying both Berwick and Carlisle loads on a round trip). The 35 tonne vehicles are leased and the 7.5 tonne vehicle is purchased.</p>	
Assessment objective reference:	3

This question was poorly answered. Most candidates miscalculated the fuel costs for both types of vehicle causing both the sub-total and the quotation price to be incorrect. Also, a number of candidates gave a daily figure as opposed to the annual figure asked for in the question. Because of these and many other errors, only a minority gained full marks.

Question number:	5
In relation to contract four, what advice should you have received from the DGSA in relation to the legal responsibilities for the business, the vehicle and documentation to be carried on the vehicle and the driver?	
Assessment objective reference:	14

As there were many correct answers available, most candidates scored excellent marks in this question. The only doubtful area were the answers under "documentation". The answers the examiners were accepting were:

- 1 "transport document"
- 2 "instructions in writing"

Question number:	6
Provided that you obtain some of the contracts, you have decided that you will train some of your existing drivers to gain full Category "C" entitlement. To reduce the expenditure involved you have decided that training will be conducted in-house using one of your new vehicles. Identify the weights, dimensions and other features of the vehicle that meet the minimum test vehicle specification.	
Assessment objective reference:	17

This question undoubtedly got the poorest response from a large majority of the candidates for the following reasons:

- 1 The question was not attempted by a number of candidates.
- 2 The question was misread by some candidates giving answers relating to the maximum weights permitted for different classes of vehicle.
- 3 A large proportion of candidates gave incorrect answers in relation to the configuration of the vehicle.

Correct answers that would have gained marks are as follows:

- 1 Have a GVW 01 at least 12 tonnes.
- 2 Have an overall length of at least 8 metres.
- 3 Be at least 2.4 metres wide.
- 4 Capable of reaching a speed of 80 KPH
- 5 Have at least 8 forward gears

Question number:	7
<p>If you obtain Contract One with a 7.5 tonne vehicle, you anticipate that you might encounter problems in relation to finance, control of the operation of the increased fleet and the requirement to apply for an "O" licence. There are a number of business options which you could consider:</p> <p>A Enter into a partnership agreement with your cousin B Sub-contract the work C Lease additional vehicles</p> <p>Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the three options.</p>	
Assessment objective reference:	1

Whilst sections(a) and (b) were overall well answered, candidates showed little knowledge of vehicle leasing. Listed below are some correct answers in relation to both the advantages and disadvantages of leasing:

Advantages:

1. No requirement to fund purchase price of vehicles
2. Leased payments wholly claimable against tax
3. Lease agreement could include favourable maintenance agreement.

Disadvantages:

- 1 Leasing over the period is more expensive than purchasing
2. Lease term could be longer than the contracts.

Question number:	8
<p>As your business is liable to grow in the foreseeable future, you are contemplating changing your sole trader status to that of a private limited company.</p> <p>A Explain THREE advantages of converting to a private limited company. B State what steps would be needed to be taken to convert to a private limited company, the documentation that you would be required to produce and any arrangements that would have to be put in place.</p>	
Assessment objective reference:	1

Section (a) was well answered by a majority of candidates but section (b) was surprisingly poorly answered. I suspect many candidates had insufficient time to answer this section. Detailed below are some acceptable answers:

- 1 Send completed application to Registrar if companies.
- 2 Provide details of registered office.
- 3 Have a company name ending with the word "Limited".
- 4 Submit Memorandum of Association
- 5 Send Articles of Association