

**Certificate of Professional Competence (R2)
Road Haulage (05689) March 2012**

Question number:1

In the light of information in the case study, identify **FIVE** ways in which schedule 1 is incorrect, inaccurate or illegal and for each explain why.

Assessment objective reference:

Syllabus Reference C4.3 Evaluate given drivers' schedules

Most candidates were able to identify that the schedule did not allow for a vehicle check prior to departing. Very few were able to state that this was a requirement of the company policy. Many candidates just wrote "it was illegal" and did not gain the mark available. Candidates must note when questions ask them to 'explain why', as marks are lost without these explanations.

Many candidates wasted one of their answers by saying it was illegal to take a 20 minute rest whilst waiting for the ferry; this demonstrates a distinct lack of knowledge of international operations. Many stated the break could only be 15 minutes. I confirm that it is legal to take a 20 minute rest whilst waiting for the ferry and indeed many drivers do use this time as a break. POA is not illegal on a ferry and time on a ferry does not have to be counted as a break; many companies pay drivers for a POA but not a break.

Approximately 40% of the candidates' scripts I marked stated that "the driver would have insufficient daily rest". This was partly correct but no marks were available if they had not clarified why, e.g. "the driver, by finishing at 23.15 would only have time for 8 hours 45 minutes of daily rest when the legal minimum is 9 hours" would in this case have gained both the marks available.

Answers of this type meant the majority of candidates only gained 40% of the available marks due to lack of explanation and clarity in their answers.

This type of question lends itself to open book examination where a candidate has the rules with them, then has to apply them to a given situation.

Question number:	2
Using the information supplied in the case study only, calculate the daily cost to the business for RBAS Schedule 2. You will need to show all your calculations under the headings of standing costs and running costs as separate items.	
Assessment objective reference: Syllabus Reference E7.1 From data provided, compile and interpret costing information including:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - determination of fixed costs, variable costs and overheads - calculation of depreciation - calculation and tabulation of costs on a per vehicle, per unit distance travelled, per journey or per unit of quantity basis 	

Around 50% of candidates gained all the available marks. Those who didn't made the following types of errors:-

- Candidates were unable to calculate the depreciation for a vehicle.
- Candidates were unable to show all their calculations.
- Many candidates had errors in the placement of the decimal points.
- There was no clarification of £ or p made by many candidates.
- No description of what the calculation was for, e.g. fuel tyres etc.
- Costing the wrong vehicle caused the loss of the majority of the marks available.
- Rounding up and rounding down e.g. 28.75p rounded down to 28p x 600 kilometres = £4.50 short of the correct figure. If this carried out on 3 calculations then the result will be too far from the required answer and the candidate will lose marks.
- Candidates were frequently unable to demonstrate their knowledge of running and standing costs.

Question number:	3
Inspection of tyres must be included in a driver's daily vehicle check. Describe TEN defects which would render tyres on the company's vehicles illegal.	
Assessment objective reference: Syllabus Reference G5.1 & H3.1 Draw up instructions for drivers to undertake daily walk round checks, including checks on: tyres	

On this occasion we were examining the candidates' ability to be able to discern from the specifications of a legal tyre what made one illegal. This would prove the candidate would have the ability to give relevant instructions to a driver as to the nature of a defect.

90% of candidates gave a rendition of the definition of a legal tyre. This information was obviously copied from their notes; however, few managed to fulfill the requirement to *describe* by going further than a list and making clear what would constitute a corresponding *defect*, e.g. "no lumps or bulges caused by the separation of the structure" etc. Many mentioned cuts but failed to state that, to render a tyre illegal, they have to reach the ply or cord of a tyre.

The model answers we were looking for were:-

The tread depth on a tyre was only 0.75mm (any depth up to 1 mm).

There is a cut in the tyre of 30mm that reached the cords (any cut greater than 25mm).

The tyre is puncture or not inflated correctly, etc.

Any answers of this type would have gained a mark (and would have saved candidates from having to write an essay about tyres).

Question number:	4
Draw up an organisational chart for your new private limited company	
Assessment objective reference: Syllabus Reference E8.3 Compile and evaluate organisation charts from information supplied for a business, a function or a depot	

Many candidates failed to gain an easy mark by creating a legible chart with clear reporting lines. On this occasion, as this is a new round of examinations, we did not penalise candidates for showing staff that had retired or transferred to other departments. This will not be allowed in future examinations. Candidates gain marks for having the correct staff in the correct department and must bear this in mind in future examinations. Examiners do not, for example, award marks for the workshop foreman reporting to the personnel manager or 86 drivers reporting to the route planner when the company had two transport operation supervisors.

Question number:	5
Consider the optional extras available for the new vehicle to be purchased for RBAS Schedule 1. For each of any SIX of the items on the list, outline TWO benefits for the driver and the company	
Assessment objective reference: Syllabus Reference G2 Be able to choose vehicles and their components (chassis, engine, transmission system, braking system, etc.) in accordance with the needs of the undertaking	

Between 10 and 15% of candidates decided to copy the environmental components out of their notes. The list was in the scenario. Very few candidates were able to give two benefits for each component. A model answer would have been "By fitting an aerodynamic kit to the vehicle the company would benefit from reduced fuel consumption saving them money and less wear on the drive line components would contribute towards this.

In almost every Chief Report, examiners state that bullet points cannot be an answer to a question that asks the candidate to outline. Candidates are expected to give the main features or general principles, and in so doing they demonstrate they can selectively identify valid and relevant information from a range of sources. From the scripts received only a handful of candidates were able to show this.

Question number:	6
When your new company makes its application for an Operator Licence, you will be required to submit various documents. Explain what each of the following SEVEN documents will demonstrate to the Traffic Commissioner:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Whole page of a newspaper containing your advertisementb. Original Certificate of Professional Competencec. Completed form TM1/contract of employmentd. Documents to show access to fundse. Certificate of Incorporationf. Letter from freeholderg. Safety Inspection Sheets	
Assessment objective reference: F1 Know the procedures and the decision options available to the	

The command word in this question was 'explain'. An explanation involves some depth of description to make the answer clear. Only a handful of candidates could answer that "the commissioner will be able to see that the advertisement was made within the 21 days of the application been made/that the newspaper is in local circulation to the proposed operating centre." Either would have gained a mark. In the same vein, for f), "to prove you rent the building", "it's on a short term lease", or "a place to run the business from" did not gain marks; a correct answer would have been "to demonstrate to the commissioner that the company has permission from the owner of the land and premises to use it as an operating centre for large goods vehicles".

General Comments.

This is the first time an open book examination has been allowed in the Certificate of Professional Competence examination.

Candidates' performance

The performance of candidates overall was reasonable, with the pass mark being set at the level intended when the paper was written, which was encouraging; however, many candidates still seemed to have not read the question, or used their notes too freely in terms of transferring information from them into their scripts, and this is reflected in the percentage of candidates passing. Even allowing for the short timescales experienced by centres, it seemed evident on occasions that candidates had interpreted this new format as encouragement to simply rely on an ability to copy out items from their notes or books, as opposed to an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to apply the knowledge they had at their disposal, and many lost marks as a result of this practice.

In this first session, examination of international elements was minimal; however, the international elements did show that only a handful of candidates had fully grasped that this was now an international qualification and demonstrated the relevant knowledge in their answers.

Comments from centres

Any comments received by OCR from centres were addressed at the standardisation meeting and by the OCR professional officer prior to the awarding meeting.

Summary

The examination was marked with the intent to be fair to both candidates and centres; making sure that candidates are not disadvantaged is always a priority.

Centres should ensure candidates are well prepared for the examinations by taking into account what I have discussed in this report. Candidates must remember that the qualification is Level 3 and must prepare themselves to be able to apply their knowledge rather than just recite it.

Pass rate: 50%