



2017 NZFBI ASSOCIATE EXAMINATION

EXAMINERS COMMENTS

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Summary

For 2017, the Associate examination was written specifically to appeal to a wider audience of firefighter. The mix of multi-choice and long answer questions across several firefighting subjects was designed to allow candidates from the various areas of FENZ to put their best foot forward to gain a pass.

It is pleasing to note that 75% of the candidates went on to attain a pass, with the average mark for those who passed being 74%.

Most questions were answered sufficiently, however long answer questions require full answers to gain full marks. Terms such as “list”, “explain”, “detail” all give clues as to how much work is required in an answer.

It is obvious that some subjects covered in the examination are covered in greater detail to other subjects within brigades as the level of detail in the answers varied across the papers. While the basic requirements of the questions were met, it is recommended that candidates expand their learning to build on their basic knowledge of equipment and procedures.

Those progressing to Membership examinations in the future will be required to demonstrate a higher level of understanding of each of the subjects to be successful.

Section A – Multi Choice

Overall, this section was answered well, with all candidates passing. A couple of questions proved to be stumbling blocks for all candidates, and many of the answers relating to fireground procedures show that additional study in this area would have assisted candidates in gaining further marks.

Section B – Long Answer Compulsory

This section proved challenging for some candidates. Many questions were answered but not in sufficient detail to award full marks. All three questions form a significant part of both rural and urban operations within brigades in the modern era and it is disappointing that candidates were not able to gain better marks as a result.

Portable Pumps

Equipment / safety precautions and volume calculations were well understood by candidates, with continuity of supply and contaminant reduction less so.

Radio Equipment and Procedures

Radio check procedures were not well demonstrated, however the remaining questions including the emergency call, K-code and radio procedure questions were answered well.

First Aid

Many candidates struggled with fully answering the questions with only very basic answers provided. First Aid courses and refreshers delivered to FENZ staff cover all the topics within the examination so the quality of the answers may indicate a need for further development or refreshment of these skills.

Section C – Long Answer Elective

This section allowed candidates to select questions of their own accord. Overall, many candidates performed well and could fully take advantage of the marks available. One candidate answered more than three questions.

Aerial Operations

Well understood in general by those candidates answering the question.

Urban Operations

This question highlighted a basic understanding of breathing apparatus equipment, however candidates did not show a detailed understanding of the troubleshooting procedures and lost marks as a result.

Firefighting Equipment

Well answered by candidates. The various triggers for hose testing proved to be challenging for many candidates.

Fire Science

The most popular elective question. Candidates showed a good understanding of the various definitions. The Four Phases of Fire question proved challenging, with many missing out on full marks due to a lack of detail.

Community Education

This question was not answered by any candidates. Community education forms a significant part of a brigade's activities and it is considered unfortunate that candidates were not sufficiently familiar with the subject to be able to answer the question.

Dry Firefighting Techniques

Well answered by candidates.