

### **This Assessment:**

- is oral and practical in nature, and normally lasts for between  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 1 hour but may take a little longer in some circumstances;
- is made by one Assessor who has been appointed by the Board. A trainee Assessor or Board member may be present as an observer with your prior agreement but their presence will have no influence on the outcome of your assessment;
- usually takes place in the Candidate's apiary, a local Association's apiary or other mutually convenient place;
- will take place during the active season, normally the months May to early September;
- will normally be arranged for a mutually convenient time giving three weeks prior notice. In the event of bad weather the Assessment may be postponed at the discretion of the Assessor;
- is divided into two parts:
  - (1) a practical session working with a colony of bees and
  - (2) a question and answer session during which any topics in the Syllabus may be asked.

*Please be aware that a high priority is placed on your understanding and attitude towards honeybee diseases, especially those covered by Statutory Orders.*

**For this Assessment** you will need to have available or be provided with:

- a queen-right colony of bees having brood in all stages, with honey and pollen stores, and covering at least six brood combs;
- the component parts of a brood frame and a sheet of wired foundation together with the necessary nails and tools for assembly;
- a working smoker with spare fuel, hive tool(s) and any other items required to enable colony inspection;
- your protective clothing and equipment as normally worn.

**During this Assessment** you will be expected to be able to:

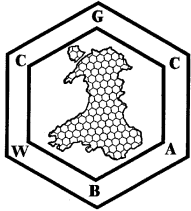
- demonstrate how to inspect your colony;
- point out adult worker bees, drones and queen (if found);  
*\* Please note that you will not be expected to find the queen as part of this Assessment.*
- explain the general shape of the brood nest;
- point out eggs, unsealed brood (larvae), and sealed brood;
- distinguish between worker brood and drone brood;
- point out or describe queen cells;
- distinguish between the cappings of worker brood and honey stores;
- recognise stored pollen;
- recognise propolis;

You will also be expected to be able to:

- describe and point out healthy brood, both unsealed and sealed and describe the appearance of unhealthy brood;
- to correctly assemble a brood frame and fit it with foundation.
- demonstrate a safe method for moving bees

WELSH BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION

CYMDEITHAS  
GWENYNWYR CYMRU



Raising  
standards  
in  
honeybee  
husbandry

*Your  
Basic  
Assessment*

**When the Assessment is over:**

- your Assessor is not permitted to give any indication of how you fared. This will be disclosed to you in writing by the Exam's Board Secretary;
- your Assessor will make a report to the Board whose Moderator is responsible for the final decision on your assessment;
- successful Candidates will receive their Certificate sometime later. Local Associations are encouraged to present this on some suitable occasion such as an Annual General Meeting.

**Need more help or guidance?**

- many Beekeeping Associations run training courses specifically for Basic Assessment candidates. Some Agricultural Colleges and Adult Education organisations run similar schemes. Your local Association will know about these;
- make sure you have an up-to-date copy of the Syllabus obtainable from the Examinations Secretary or downloaded from the WBKA website. This sets out the full requirement and the regulations for entry;
- many beekeeping books of a general nature and those specifically intended for beginners make helpful reading.
- application to enter should be made through your county or local beekeeping Association. In cases of difficulty and for any clarification on procedure please contact the Exams Board Secretary at the address below:

Examinations Board Secretary,  
Ms D Sweet  
Graig Fawr Lodge  
Caerphilly  
CF 83 1NF

Feb 2010