



# MODULE 1 HONEY BEE MANAGEMENT SYLLABUS

Applicable from January 2020

## Aims

The Modules are designed to give beekeepers the opportunity to study the craft of apiculture with the goals of obtaining an Intermediate Theory Certificate and an Advanced Theory Certificate.

## Conditions of Entry

The Candidate is recommended to have kept and managed bees for at least 2 seasons.

Modules can be taken in any order with the exception of Module 8, which shall be the last module to be taken.

The secretary to the Board shall have received a completed Application Form and fee by the 10th February for March Series and by 30<sup>th</sup> September for the November series of the Module Examinations.

A maximum of FOUR modules can be taken at any one session

## Award of Certificates

A BBKA Certificate will be awarded for each module passed and the pass mark will be 60% for all modules. (Credit 70%, Distinction 80%)

## **In addition:**

- The BBKA Intermediate Theory Certificate will be awarded when modules 1, 2, 3 and one other from 5, 6 or 7 have been passed.
- The BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate will be awarded when all modules been passed.
- The BBKA Master Beekeeper Certificate will be awarded to a beekeeper who has obtained a BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate and the BBKA Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry.
- In order to qualify for either a BBKA Intermediate or BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate the necessary modules must be passed in a time period not exceeding 12 years.

## The Examination

Each module examined consists of a written paper. There will be three sections to the paper; Section A requires one or two word answers, Section B (4 questions from a choice of 5) requires short answers in note form, Section C (1 question from a choice of 2) requires **more detailed** answers. Candidates will be expected to use scientific nomenclature where applicable.

The Examiners may include in any Module examination any topic from the Basic Assessment syllabus.

Candidates' papers will be retained by the Examinations Board. The candidate is able to request a résumé of their paper on payment of the appropriate fee.





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The Candidate shall be able to give a detailed account of:-

- 1.1 the types of hives and frames used by beekeepers in the United Kingdom, including comparative knowledge of the following hives, National, WBC, Smith, National Deep, Commercial, Langstroth and Dadant (details of exact frame sizes will not be required).
- 1.2 the principles which govern the design of hives and frames, including the concept of bee space, and the main features of their construction;
- 1.3 the use of wax foundation;
- 1.4 methods of fitting frames with wired and unwired wax foundation;
- 1.5 ways of getting wax foundation fully drawn;
- 1.6 the methods of spacing frames in hives, the usual measurements used and the advantages and disadvantages of varying the spacing;
- 1.7 the need for regular comb replacement in the hive and how this can be effectively carried out;
- 1.8 how to begin beekeeping, including the acquisition of bees, sources and type of personal and other equipment, the approximate costs of equipment and bees and any precautions necessary;
- 1.9 the criteria used in the selection of apiaries;
- 1.10 the factors to be considered in the siting of colonies in home and in out-apiaries;
- 1.11 good apiary hygiene;
- 1.12 the variable temperament of bees in relation to management and public relations;
- 1.13 the actions which can be taken to avoid bad-tempered bees causing a nuisance to members of the public;
- 1.14 the year's work in the apiary and how this is dependent upon the annual colony cycle and the timing of local bee forage;
- 1.15 the drifting of honey bees, the dangers caused and techniques used to minimise the problem;
- 1.16 the principles involved in feeding honey bees, including types of feeder, amounts of food, types of food and timing of feeding;
- 1.17 the value of honey, pollen, water and propolis to the honey bee colony;
- 1.18 the prevention, detection and control of swarming;
- 1.19 the use, and types, of queen excluder used in the United Kingdom;
- 1.20 methods of swarm control used in small-scale beekeeping enterprises;
- 1.21 methods of marking and clipping queens
- 1.22 the methods of making nuclei and the uses to which nuclei can be put;
- 1.23 how swarms and nuclei can be turned into productive colonies;





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- 1.24 methods of taking and hiving a swarm of honey bees;
- 1.25 the methods used to unite colonies of honey bees, the underlying principles of these methods and any precautions that should be taken;
- 1.26 robbing by honey bees and wasps and the associated dangers, including prevention and curtailment;
- 1.27 spring management of honey bee colonies;
- 1.28 management of honey bee colonies for honey production from oil seed rape and other specialist crops such as heather;
- 1.29 summer management of honey bee colonies;
- 1.30 moving colonies and the difficulties and dangers involved;
- 1.31 different methods of 'clearing' bees from supers;
- 1.32 how colonies are prepared for the winter period and the principles underlying this preparation;
- 1.33 the effect of honey bee stings and recommended first aid treatment.
- 1.34 laying workers and drone laying queens and the conditions leading to their development;
- 1.35 the signs of queenlessness and a method of confirming the condition;





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## **Arrangements**

The Assessment venue and the Invigilation are arranged by the Local Examination Secretary. Approval for these arrangements shall be obtained from the Secretary to the Board at least five weeks before the date of the Assessment.

## **Application to Enter**

These should be made through the Local Examination Secretary of the County Beekeeping Association or directly to the Secretary of the Board at the address given below. Applications are required at least six weeks before the date on which the Assessment is to be taken. Available dates for the Assessments will be announced in the Bee Press or may be obtained from the Board Secretary.

## **Application Form**

Every application must be accompanied by a completed Application Form together with the Assessment Fee. Cheques should be made payable to BBKA.

## **Assessment Fees**

The current fee for any Assessment may be obtained from the Secretary to the Board or the Local Examination Secretary.

## **AUTHORITY**

The above is issued by the BBKA Examinations Board and all communications in respect of the Assessments should be addressed to:

The Secretary  
BBKA Examinations Board  
National Beekeeping Centre  
Stoneleigh Park  
KENILWORTH  
Warwickshire  
CV8 2LG

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