



MODULE 2 HONEY BEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE SYLLABUS

Applicable from January 2020

Aims

The Modules are designed to give beekeepers the opportunity to study the craft of apiculture further 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 30th 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.





MODULE 2 HONEY BEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE SYLLABUS

Applicable from January 2020

The Candidate shall be able to give detailed accounts of:-

- 2.1 the main requirements of the current United Kingdom statutory regulations affecting the handling, preparation for sale, hygiene, composition, labelling and weight of packs of honey;
- 2.2 the methods used to uncap honeycombs, and of separating the cappings from honey;
- 2.3 the types of honey extractor available and their use in the extraction of honey including ling heather honey from combs;
- 2.4 the straining and settling of honey after extraction;
- 2.5 the storage of honey including the underlying principles of storage;
- 2.6 the preparation and bottling of liquid honey, including ling heather honey;
- 2.7 the preparation and bottling of naturally granulated, soft set and seeded honey;
- 2.8 the preparation of section, cut-comb and chunk honey for sale;
- 2.9 the constituents expressed in percentage terms of a typical sample of United Kingdom honey and an outline of the normal range of variation of its main constituents;
- 2.10 methods of determining the moisture content of honey;
- 2.11 the spoilage of honey particularly by fermentation (including the effect of water content, storage temperature and the presence of yeast);
- 2.12 the physical properties of honey including relative density (specific gravity), refractive index, viscosity, hygroscopicity, reaction to heat and electrical conductivity;
- 2.13 the main constituents and physical properties of beeswax;
- 2.14 methods of recovering saleable beeswax from used comb and cappings;
- 2.15 the range of uses for, and preparation of, beeswax;
- 2.16 the uses of other bee products such as pollen, royal jelly, venom and propolis;
- 2.17 the preparation of comb honey, soft set, naturally set and liquid honey, beeswax blocks, beeswax candles and meads for the show bench.

The Candidate shall also be able to give:-

- 2.18 a list of 10 major nectar and/or pollen producing plants of the United Kingdom and their flowering periods together with a detailed knowledge of those in his/her own locality;
- 2.19 an account of the importance of nectary guides to the foraging bee using a named example and describe how the following flowers, having been successfully pollinated, can indicate to bees that their visits are no longer required – clover, forget-me-not, horse chestnut.





MODULE 2 HONEY BEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE SYLLABUS

Applicable from January 2020

- 2.20 an illustrated description of the floral structure of apple;
- 2.21 an account of the processes of pollination and fertilisation;
- 2.22 the genetic and evolutionary importance of cross-pollination and an outline of the methods used by plants to favour cross-pollination;
- 2.23 the location and function of the extra-floral nectaries of broad bean, cherry laurel, cherry and plum;
- 2.24 a list of floral sources of unpalatable honey;
- 2.25 an account of the composition of nectar and its variants;
- 2.26 an account of the factors affecting nectar secretion and the variations in the composition of nectar in different plant species and differing weather conditions;
- 2.27 an account of the origins and typical composition of honeydew with a brief description of the characteristics of honeydew honey;
- 2.28 an account of how the worker honey bees process nectar to change it into honey, including the enzymes and chemistry involved (to include a chemical equation).
- 2.29 an outline account of the determination of the floral source(s) and geographic origin of honey by analysis of its pollen content and the use of such information in the enforcement of regulations governing the labelling of honey offered for sale





MODULE 2 HONEY BEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE SYLLABUS

Applicable from January 2020

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 on the BBKA Website 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

published September 1995
revised April 1996
revised March 2001
major revision April 2004
revised April 2007
revised April 2009
major revision April 2010
revised April 2013