

**MODULE 2**  
**HONEYBEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE**  
**SYLLABUS**

**Aims**

The Modules are designed to give beekeepers who have passed the Basic Assessment the opportunity to study the craft of apiculture further with the goals of obtaining an Intermediate Theory Certificate for passing Modules 1 to 3 and any other module plus an Advanced Theory Certificate for passing Modules 1 to 3 and 5 to 8.

**Conditions of Entry**

The Candidate shall have passed the BBKA Basic Assessment or an equivalent Examination approved by the Board. The date when this certificate was obtained shall be entered on the application form.

The Candidate shall have kept and managed bees for at least 2 seasons. A statement to this effect, on the application form shall be signed by someone who is familiar with the Candidate's beekeeping.

A completed Application Form and fee shall have been received by the Local Examination Secretary at least six weeks before the date of the Assessment and this shall be received by the Secretary to the Board at least five weeks before the date of the Assessment.

**Award of Certificates**

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

An Intermediate Theory Certificate will be awarded when modules 1, 2, 3 and one other have been passed. An Advanced Theory Certificate will be awarded when modules 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been passed. For a beekeeper whose objective is to obtain the Advanced Certificate only, there is no requirement to pass module 4 as the items in this module are included in other modules.

In order to qualify for either an Intermediate or Senior Theory Certificate the necessary modules must be passed in a time period not exceeding 12 years.

The Master Beekeeper Certificate will be awarded automatically to a beekeeper who has obtained an Advanced Theory Certificate and the Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry.

**The Assessment**

Each module shall consist of a written paper which shall be answered in a maximum of 1½ hours and shall have sections. **Candidates will be expected to use scientific names where applicable**

Two Examiners appointed by the Board mark each module. The marks given by the Examiners, marking independently, are scrutinised by the Moderator.

The final marks after moderation shall be sent by the Board Secretary to the Candidate.

## MODULE 2

### HONEYBEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE

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 information that the following flowers communicate to the honeybee – clover, field geranium, rosebay willowherb, forget-me-not, horse chestnut.**
- 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 honeybees process nectar to change it into honey, **including the enzymes and chemistry involved (to include a chemical equation).**

### **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. The dates when any relevant certificates were obtained must be entered on the Application Form. Certificates should not be sent.

Ensure that the Certificate of Qualification on the application form is completed. This is not necessary for re-sits.

### **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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