



The British Beekeepers' Association

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS OF EXAMINATIONS FOR 2012

The full syllabus for the Junior, Basic, Intermediate & Advanced, Certificates in Beekeeping Husbandry, Microscopy and Judging Assessments may be obtained from the Secretary to the Examinations Board, Mrs. Val Francis, National Beekeeping Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG. The Basic and Microscopy syllabi are 50 pence each the Intermediate & Advanced syllabus is combined and costs £1.00, as does the General Certificate and Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry and the Show Judge Syllabus. The Junior syllabus is free. Please specify which syllabus is required and enclose a 9x6 stamped addressed envelope. Cheques payable to BBKA please. Alternatively you can download the syllabi from the BBKA website at www.bbka.org.uk selecting Learn about Bees and then Examinations and Assessments page.

Junior

This is intended to meet the needs of schools and scout groups. It consists of individual questioning of the candidate for about 10 minutes, a short written paper, making up a frame and presenting a diary. The entrance fee is £2.00 but this is refunded to successful candidates.

Basic

An oral and practical test held at any suitable apiary and conducted by a BBKA Assessor. It is open to all who have managed at least one colony of bees for a minimum of 12 months. The entrance fee is £15.00. Applications should be made to the Area Examination Secretary (or direct to BBKA Head Office if you are an individual member) at least one month before the date it is proposed to sit the Assessment. Successful applicants who are under eighteen at the date of the assessment will have their fee refunded.

Intermediate and Advanced Theory

Open only to those who have passed the Basic Assessment and kept bees for at least two seasons these Assessments consist of seven modules **that may be taken in any order with the exception of Module 8, which is the last module to be taken.**

Each module is examined by a 1½ hour written paper. An Intermediate Certificate will be awarded when modules 1 to 3 and one other have been passed and an Advanced Theory Certificate when all modules have been passed. The Assessments are a searching test of the candidate's knowledge and power of expression. The entrance fee for each module is £20.00. For an Advanced Theory Certificate to be awarded the relevant modules must be passed in a time period not exceeding twelve years. Applications should be made by 10th February for the March series (Modules 1,2,5,7) or 30th September for the November series (Modules 1,3,6,8). Past papers for the modules are available at £1 each from National Office, Stoneleigh, or from the BBKA Website using Paypal. A maximum of four modules may be taken on any occasion. *Please note that Module 4 will be dropped from the framework as of 2011.*

General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry

Open only to those who have passed the Basic Assessment and have kept and managed bees for at least three years. The Assessment is conducted by two BBKA Assessor and consists of:

- Inspection of the Candidate's Apiary, Equipment and Honey handling equipment.
- Manipulation of one or more colonies of the Candidate's bees
- Demonstration of a method of selective queen rearing

The entrance fee is £40.00. Application must be made by 28th February of the year in which it is intended to sit the Assessment.

Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry

Open only to those who have passed the General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry. This Assessment is designed for beekeepers aspiring to lecture and demonstrate the craft of beekeeping to others. The Assessment will be conducted at a suitable location and will consist of the following tasks:

- Manipulation of one or more colonies as required by the Assessor.
- Presentation of a short lecture on a practical topic to a small audience.
- Demonstration of dissection for acarine and nosema analysis.
- Discussion and practical on methods of queen rearing.
- Discussion on other aspects of beekeeping as given in the syllabus.

The entrance fee is £50.00. Application must be made by 28th February of the year in which it is intended to sit the Assessment.

Master Beekeeper

A Master Beekeeper Certificate will be awarded to a beekeeper when the Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry and Advanced Theory Certificates have been obtained. This is the new name for the Senior Certificate issued up to 2001 and is of equivalent status. This is a recognised qualification for sitting the Examination for the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

Microscopy

Open only to those who have passed the Basic Assessment and have kept and managed bees for at least one year. Two BBKA Assessors conduct the Assessment. The entrance fee is £40.00 and application must be made by 28th February of the year in which it is intended to sit the Assessment.

Show Judge

This Assessment is designed to provide a suitable test for those beekeepers that wish to judge at small and regional shows and have some experience in obtaining awards and stewarding at these shows. The entrance fee is £40.00. Candidates wishing to take the Show Judges Assessment must apply for a record book from the Examinations Board Secretary to record the following:

- Stewarding for a number of BBKA Judges at county or national level or honey shows with more than 100 entries.
- Judging at a number of Honey shows where 3 of the shows are assessed by 3 different BBKA Show Judges.
- A final supervised judging and viva voce.
- Record of awards at honey shows at third prize or higher at County or National level.
- Record of other relevant experience such as Show Secretary.
- All this within a 5 year period.
- The Basic examination must have been passed at the time of entry and BBKA Module 1 and Module 2 Examinations or the BBKA General Husbandry Certificate (if not already attained) within the 5 year period.