

# Scottish Beekeepers' Association

Education and Examination Committee

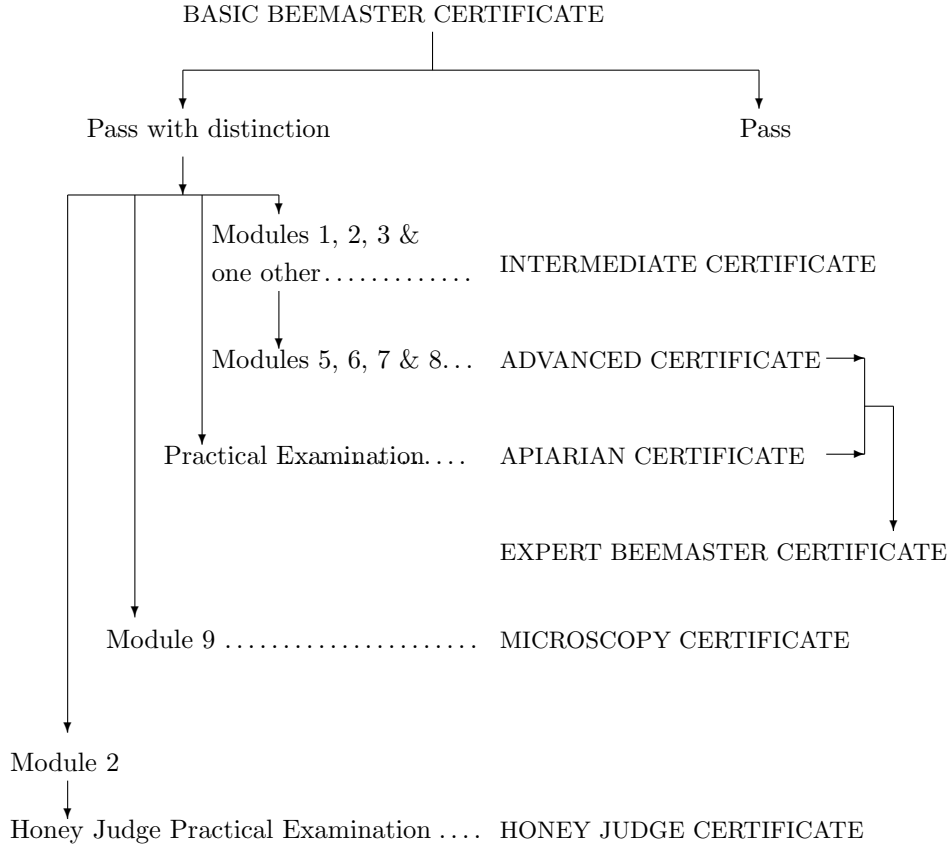


## Syllabus

of Examination in Apiculture

## Apiarian Certificate

**THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
EXAMINATION STRUCTURE**



**THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

*Examinations for Proficiency in Beekeeping*

**APPLICATION FORM**

Candidate's Name..... Tel.....

Address:.....

(Please print)..... Postcode.....

How many years a beekeeper?..... Present number of stocks.....

Books studied.....

Which Bee Journals do you read?.....

Local Association..... SBA Member YES/NO

Examination(s) applied for [ ] Basic Beemaster  
 [ ] Module 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; (Circle as appropriate)  
 [ ] Apiarian  
 [ ] Honey Judge

Fee Enclosed:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

N.B. A Candidate must already hold the Basic Beemaster (or other equivalent certificate) before applying for any other certificate.

Basic Certificate awarded by:..... Date:..... Number:.....

*Please send this form, with the necessary fee, to the Education Convener*

**ORAL**

For this section candidates should refer to the prospectus for the SCOTTISH INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED EXAMINATIONS.

The candidate shall be able to give an ORAL account of the following sections from the modules listed below:-

- MODULE 1 HONEYBEE MANAGEMENT  
Learning outcomes 1.1-1.29;
- MODULE 2 HONEYBEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE  
Learning Outcomes 2.1-2.8, 2.11, 2.13-2.18, 2.20,  
2.24-2.26;
- MODULE 3 HONEYBEE DISEASES, PESTS AND POISONING  
Learning Outcomes 3.1, 3.5-3.11, 3.14, 3.15,  
3.18-3.20, 3.22, 3.24-3.27;
- MODULE 4 INTERMEDIATE HONEYBEE BIOLOGY  
Learning Outcomes 4.6, 4.7, 4.10, 4.13,  
4.17-4.23;
- MODULE 6 HONEYBEE BEHAVIOUR  
Learning Outcomes 6.1-6.18;
- MODULE 7 SELECTION AND BREEDING OF HONEYBEES  
Learning Outcomes 7.1-7.3, 7.5;
- MODULE 8 HONEYBEE HISTORY AND MANAGEMENT  
Learning Outcomes 8.1, 8.3, 8.9, 8.10, 8.13.

**AIMS**

1. To improve the standard of beekeeping in Scotland.
2. To give beekeepers who have obtained the SCOTTISH BASIC BEEMASTER'S CERTIFICATE, with distinction, and who have a comprehensive knowledge of practical beekeeping as well as sound management and handling skills, the opportunity to sit a purely practical and oral examination to obtain the SCOTTISH APIARIAN CERTIFICATE.

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

1. The candidate shall have passed the SCOTTISH BASIC BEEMASTER'S CERTIFICATE, with distinction, or an equivalent qualification approved by the Education Committee. The date when this certificate was obtained shall be entered on the application form.
2. The candidate shall have owned and managed at least three hives of bees for at least five seasons.
3. The appropriate application form and fees shall have been received by the Education Convener prior to the deadline published in The Scottish Beekeeper magazine.

**AWARD OF CERTIFICATES**

1. The SCOTTISH APIARIAN CERTIFICATE will be awarded to a candidate who has passed both the practical and oral parts of the examination.
2. A candidate who has gained the SCOTTISH ADVANCED CERTIFICATE will NOT be required to sit the ORAL examination for the SCOTTISH APIARIAN CERTIFICATE.
3. A candidate who has gained the SCOTTISH MICROSCOPY CERTIFICATE will NOT be required to demonstrate proficiency in sections 10, 11 and 12 of the Practical Beekeeping section of this syllabus.
4. The SCOTTISH EXPERT BEEMASTER'S CERTIFICATE will be awarded to a candidate who has gained both the SCOTTISH APIARIAN CERTIFICATE and the SCOTTISH ADVANCED CERTIFICATE.

## **THE EXAMINATION**

1. The candidate's apiary and extracting and bottling facilities shall be used for the examination.
2. The candidate shall provide suitable microscopes for the detection of adult bee diseases.
3. An Examiner approved by the Education Committee will conduct the examination. Normally only the examiner and the candidate will be present at the examination. Should the Education Committee wish a trainee examiner or a member of the committee to be present as an observer, prior approval of the candidate will be obtained.
4. The examination will normally take two to three hours.

## **SYLLABUS PRACTICAL**

### **INSPECTION OF APIARY, EQUIPMENT AND HONEYBEE PRODUCTS**

The candidate shall be required to make available for inspection by the Examiner:–

1. his/her apiary;
2. spare equipment;
3. combs not in use and demonstrate methods and place of storage;
4. extraction and honey handling equipment and satisfy the examiner that it complies with the current legal requirements for food processing and packing;
5. the equipment used for the recovery of beeswax and describe the method used;
6. samples of own honey, bottled ready for sale;
7. a sample of own beeswax, ready for sale;
8. hive records for the current and previous year.

## **DEMONSTRATION OF PRACTICAL BEEKEEPING**

The candidate will be required to demonstrate:–

1. proficiency in any manipulation of honeybee colonies requested by the examiner;
2. proficiency in the use of own equipment as requested by the examiner;
3. knowledge of the progress of each colony during the current season with reference to hive records;
4. knowledge of the origin and age of the queen in each colony;
5. knowledge of the existence of any disease in colonies and describe what action is being taken to deal with it;
6. own method of swarm prevention, detection of signs of swarming and swarm control;
7. proficiency in methods of queen rearing;
8. proficiency in clipping and marking queens (demonstrate on drones);
9. proficiency in taking samples of honeybees for disease diagnosis;
10. proficiency in setting up microscopes for the diagnosis of Acarine, Nosema and Amoeba diseases;
11. proficiency in examining honeybees for the presence of the above diseases (samples may be collected by the candidate or supplied by the examiner);
12. knowledge of the magnification required for each examination, the significance of what is apparent under the microscope and the statistical significance of the size of the sample examined;
13. knowledge of the effect of honeybee and wasp stings on humans and any first aid treatment which can be applied.