

The Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations
(Comhnascadh Cumann Beachairí na hÉireann)



Education and Examination Board

GORMANSTON SENIOR PRACTICAL EXAMINATION 2017

Date: Monday, 31st. July 2017.

Three hours (14.00-17.00)

You must answer QUESTION 1 and FOUR OTHER QUESTIONS

Draw diagrams and sketches where appropriate.

Write clearly and adhere strictly to the subject matter of the questions.

1. a) Construct a labelled five tier IPM Integrated Pest Management pyramid and explain the significance of the levels. (8 marks)
b) Describe an Integrated Pest Management system that could be used to minimise the very serious threat posed by Varroa (12 marks)
2. a) Describe how you would handle a very aggressive colony (10marks)
b) Describe how this colony could be re-queened with a queen from a much more gentle strain of bee. (10 marks)
- 3 (a) Describe the circumstances and likely causes that can lead a colony to become hopelessly queenless. (5 marks)
(b) Describe the subsequent sequence of events and fate of a colony of our honeybees if the beekeeper does not come to the rescue. (10 marks)
(c) Explain how the Cape honeybee can overcome this problem. (5 marks)
4. A beekeeper with 15 colonies decides to allocate 5 colonies to the exclusive production of about 20 nuclei per year for the next 5 years, to feed the demand from beginners. Describe a system and methods you would advise for this beekeeper to produce top quality nuclei. (20 marks)
5. Write notes on five of the following seven items:
managing apideas; dealing with a weak colony; equalisation of colonies; preparation of run honey for show; queen mating; preparation for winter; cutting/management of hedgerows. (5 x 4 marks)
6. The modified Artificial Swarm can be a very effective method of controlling Varroa mite numbers. Describe in detail, when and how the Artificial Swarm with modification can be carried out to reduce the mite numbers.
Explain clearly the principle on which it works. (20 marks)