

Provincial Senior Practical Examination in Beekeeping – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015

1. a) Explain how you would assess the level of Varroa Destructor infestation in a honeybee colony in Spring. **[6 marks]**  
b) What criteria would lead you to judge the Varroa infestation to be heavy or light? **[2 marks]**  
c) What chemical treatments do you use to treat Varroa?  
How effective do you consider them to be? **[6 marks]**  
d) What non-chemical practices do you employ to minimise the impact of Varroa on your colonies? **[6 marks]**

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2. a) What signs, especially early signs, would lead you to suspect the presence of American Foul Brood (AFB) in a colony? **[6 marks]**  
b) How is AFB confirmed? **[2 marks]**  
c) If AFB is confirmed in one of your hives, what steps must you take and what precautions should you take? **[8 marks]**  
d) What “good practice” steps can a beekeeper take to minimise the risk of AFB in his/her apiary? **[4 marks]**
3. a) What steps do you take to eliminate or at least minimise swarming in your apiary? **[20 marks]**  
**OR**  
b) Describe a system of queen-rearing suitable for a small-scale beekeeper and explain how one might select suitable breeder queens. **[20 marks]**
4. a) Explain how you would set about preparing a quantity of granulated honey for sale as run honey. **[20 marks]**  
**OR**  
b) Your bees have come from Oil Seed Rape **or** Heather. Explain how you would harvest the honey and prepare it for sale. **[20 marks]**
5. a) “In managing honeybees, regular renewal of combs plays a very important part”. Discuss. **[20 marks]**  
**OR**  
b) Explain how you would prepare a cake of wax for the Show Bench. **[20 marks]**
6. Describe the life cycle of the Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and say what signs would lead one to suspect the presence of the Small Hive Beetle in a beehive. **[20 marks]**
7. Write notes on 5 (five) of the following as they apply to beekeeping:  
a) Oxalic Acid; b) Acetic Acid; c) Wax Moth; d) Chunk Honey; e) Honeydew;  
f) Frosting of honey; g) Hypersensitivity to bee stings; h) Chilling of Brood. **[4 x 5 marks]**