

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



Education and Examination Board

PROVINCIAL SENIOR PRACTICAL EXAMINATION 2017

Date: Saturday, 1st. April 2017.

Three hours (9.30 – 12.30)

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. Describe in detail how to carry out a comprehensive brood disease inspection, in the first week of June, on a very strong colony of honeybees for sale. (20 marks)
2. (a) Describe a good comprehensive method of swarm prevention that will allow colonies to be at full strength for the main honey flow. (10 marks)
(b) Describe a good comprehensive record system for the evaluation and assessment of queens for improved breeding. (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 60 colonies decides to allocate 15 colonies to the exclusive production of about 60 nuclei to feed the demand from beginners. Describe a system and methods you would advise to produce top quality nuclei. (15 marks)
What checks should be made on each nucleus before sale and collection. (5 marks)
5. Write notes on five of the following seven items:
a) managing apideas; b) Asian hornet; c) equalisation of colonies; d) preparation of chunk honey for show; e) worker policing; f) preparation for winter; g) describe the difference between filtering and straining honey, noting the benefits of each. (4 marks each)
6. (a) The modified Artificial Swarm can be a very effective method of controlling Varroa mite numbers. Explain clearly the principles on which it works. (10 marks)
(b) Product EduKateaMite has a 98% efficacy and another product ManaGaMite has a 49% efficacy against Varroa. Assuming that under our conditions we get 6 doublings of mites in a year compare the relative merits of both of these products as treatments for Varroa. (10 marks)