

Scottish Beekeepers' Association

Education and Examination Committee



Syllabus

of Examination in Apiculture

Honey Judge Certificate

Issue August 2024

THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

THE HONEY JUDGE CERTIFICATE

PROSPECTUS

AIMS

1. To improve the standard of presentation of beekeeping products in Scotland.
2. To give beekeepers who have obtained the SCOTTISH BASIC BEEKEEPING CERTIFICATE & have obtained the SBA MODULE 2 CERTIFICATE and who have a comprehensive knowledge of the preparation of honeybee products for show and sale and the showing of other bee related exhibits, the opportunity to obtain the SCOTTISH HONEY JUDGE CERTIFICATE.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The candidate shall have gained the SBA BASIC BEEKEEPING CERTIFICATE or equivalent qualification approved by the SBA Education Committee. The date when the certificate was obtained shall be entered on the application form.
2. The candidate shall have passed Module 2 of the SBA or BBKA Module examinations.
3. The candidate shall complete a REQUIREMENT LIST (see end of this document) which should provide evidence of having been awarded at least twenty prizes in at least eight of the requirement list classes in honey shows at local or national level. Samples shall be provided for classes for which no prizes have been received (maximum two classes). Verification of prizes shall be provided.
4. The candidate shall have acted as a Steward to a Certified Honey Judge in not less than 3 local honey shows and in at least 3 major honey shows. The Royal Highland Show, the Scottish National Honey Show and the UK National Honey Show or a regional show with more than 100 entries shall qualify as major shows.
5. The candidate shall have judged a local honey show under the supervision of a Certified Honey Judge, explaining the reasoning behind decisions made.
6. A completed examination Application Form, with a completed Requirement List and a list of shows at which they have stewarded and judged and the appropriate fee shall have been received by the Education Officer prior to the deadline published in The Scottish Beekeeper magazine or on the SBA web-site.

AWARD OF CERTIFICATES

1. The SCOTTISH HONEY JUDGE CERTIFICATE will be awarded to a candidate who has passed the Practical, Oral and Requirements parts of the examination and who has passed Module 2, HONEYBEE PRODUCTS AND FORAGE. The certificate will be awarded at Pass (60%), Credit (70%) and Distinction (80%) on a minimum section marks basis, i.e. if the minimum mark of any section is 60 to 69% then a Pass will be awarded. If the minimum mark of any section is under 60% then the candidate will fail.

THE EXAMINATION

1. The candidate will be required to pass Module 2, pass the oral examination and demonstrate a high standard of competence in the judging of any class which might be encountered at a major honey show.
2. The examiners will be looking for a thorough knowledge of the preparation and exhibition of honey and allied classes; also of the ability to detect possible faults, adulteration and faking.
3. The candidate shall demonstrate knowledge of an organised system of judging which can deal with a wide range of situations likely to be encountered during judging.

Section A - PRACTICAL

1. The candidate shall bring to the examination all the items necessary to allow the proper adjudication of any class in a show.
2. The candidate shall bring to the examination the completed REQUIREMENT LIST for consideration by the examiners.
3. The candidate shall bring samples from each of the ten classes in the Requirement list for which they have NOT received prizes. (maximum 2 classes)
These shall be prepared as for exhibition, and each shall be accompanied by a short written statement of their good and bad points in the candidate's opinion as a potential honey judge.
Candidates are NOT required to provide samples from any of the ten classes listed if they have produced evidence of having been awarded at least 2 prizes in each of these classes. See 'Conditions of Entry' para 3.
4. The candidate will be required to judge a selection of classes at a honey show, or at a specially staged show, identifying the first, second and third in order of merit. Other individual samples, some with faults, may be provided by the examiner for comment by the candidate
5. The candidate will be allowed to proceed with the judging free from comment.
The oral examination will commence when the practical judging is complete.

Section B - ORAL

The candidate will be required to:

1. discuss the reasoning behind the judging decisions made;
2. discuss the samples he/she has brought;
3. describe the written statements concerning the samples;
4. describe the procedure during judging, including reference to the show schedule and rules;
5. describe the use of judging equipment, placing emphasis on points of hygiene;
6. discuss the points and comparison methods of arriving at a decision;
7. discuss the 'weighting' given to flavour, viscosity, aroma, cleanliness, etc, when making a decision;
8. describe and discuss the following: honeydew, thixotropy, frosting, shrinkage, type of granulation, fermentation, honey cakes, confectionery, beeswax (colour and adulteration), beeswax candles, mead, displays, observation hives and composite classes;
9. describe and discuss 'natural faults' in section honey, cut comb honey and combs suitable for extraction, including faults such as damage from braula and wax moth;
10. discuss possible faking (loose cappings put on cells, bleaching and adulteration of beeswax), overheating of honey;
11. show an appreciation for the necessity for good food handling practices by judges, stewards and exhibitors;
12. discuss the duties of a steward;
13. discuss the requirements of a show schedule.

Section C - REQUIREMENT LIST

SBA HONEY JUDGE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT LIST Name of Candidate.....

I have acted as a STEWARD at the following LOCAL HONEY SHOWS

Date	Show	Signature of Judge

I have acted as a STEWARD at the following MAJOR HONEY SHOWS:

Date	Show	Signature of Judge

I have JUDGED UNDER SUPERVISION at the following Local Honey Show

Date	Show	Signature & comments of Supervising Judge

I have been awarded the following NUMBER of Prizes in these classes at Honey Shows (prize cards or proof of award to be produced):

Liquid Honey	1st	2nd	3rd

Set Honey	1st	2nd	3rd
Cut Comb Honey	1st	2nd	3rd
Heather honey	1st	2nd	3rd
Frames/Sections	1st	2nd	3rd
Mead	1st	2nd	3rd
Beeswax/Candles	1st	2nd	3rd
Baking/Preserves	1st	2nd	3rd
Displays	1st	2nd	3rd
Photographs	1st	2nd	3rd

I have NOT been awarded a prize in all of the classes listed above and consequently, I submit the following SAMPLES for consideration by the examiner(s): Tick as appropriate

Liquid Honey	Heather honey	Beeswax
Set Honey	Frames/Sections	Honey Baking/Preserves
Cut Comb Honey	Mead	Displays
Photographs		

Signature of ApplicantDate.....

Prior Certificate Requirements

Candidates shall have obtained the SBA or BBKA Module 2 certificate prior to sitting the Honey Judge Examination.

The syllabus for SBA Module 2 can be found on the syllabus section of the SBA web site.

BOOK & REGULATION LIST

PRESCRIBED TEXTS

Guidelines for Honey Judges and Show Committees - SBA
Current Food Hygiene Regulations (Food Standards Agency Scotland)
Current Honey (Scotland) Regulation (2003 EC Dir 2001/110/EC)
Food Labelling Regulations (1996)
Weights & Measures Act (1984)

SUGGESTED TEXTS

UK National Honey Show Leaflets:

- Preparation of Liquid Honey
- Judging Honey in the Jar
- Granulated or Crystallised Honey
- Comb Honey for Show
- Management, Production and Exhibiting of Heather Honey
- Showing Honey Products
- Wax for Show
- Beeswax Candles for Show
- Producing Mead for Showing & Drinking

A book of Honey- Crane

Beeswax- Brown

Mead-Making, Exhibiting & Judging – Harry Riches

The Observation Hive - Showler

Making Beeswax Candles – Clara Furness

Plants & Honey Bees – Aston & Bucknall

Plants and Bees – Kirk & Howes

The Hive and the Honeybee- Dadant

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Beekeeping - Hooper & Morse

Producing, Preparing, Exhibiting and

Judging Bee Produce - Herrod-Hempsall