

Examiners report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2 Professional Interviews Weights and Measures June 2022

This year the professional interview presented candidates with scenarios on either a routine inspection of a large supermarket; a complaint about short weight coal; or a routine inspection of a forecourt. Five questions are asked per scenario, and the scenarios are marked out of 100. But not all questions are allocated 20 marks.

Supermarket inspection scenario - the exam included pictures for the first time and candidates were invited to comment on what they saw. Candidates should ensure they fully scrutinise any picture presented to them and follow a logical process when assessing compliance. It was obvious which candidates had been in the situation presented because they could give practical answers to the problem presented. Candidates that had not scored less than those who had.

The scenario on short weight coal proved difficult for some candidates. The sale solid fuel is covered by Schedule 5 of the Weights and Measures Act 1985 so there is no reason for candidates to be unfamiliar with the requirements. Candidates were also asked to provide advice to the trader. Any advice should be practical and easily understood and candidates should try to think of the target audience before answering. The scenario also had a question on what information would be gathered. This is a common question in the Professional Interview – candidates should know what information is necessary to investigate a complaint. Full marks can be achieved if candidates take the time to think logically.

The final scenario concerned the routine inspection of a forecourt. This scenario was well answered. For one question a picture of a data plate was shown and candidates were invited to explain what the markings meant. This is where a sound knowledge of the approved verifier/manufacturer system helps as almost all new LFMs are factory verified by module D manufacturers and subsequently reverified by S11A approved verifiers. The ability to “read” the markings is essential in understanding who has been involved in the conformity assessment of instruments found out in the field which in turn enables the correct referral of any issues.

General

The professional interview does not contain anything deliberately designed to trip candidates up. The best approach is to keep calm and think logically. This exam is often the last a candidate will sit before being appointed as a weights and measures inspector whereupon they may well be given the short weight complaints to investigate, the routine inspections, or the requests for verifications. In preparation for this exam candidates should try to anticipate typical scenarios that they could find themselves in and consider what actions they would take. Broadly, this exam is less about what a candidate knows and is more about what a candidate would do.

Often candidates are asked what advice they would give so should make sure they're familiar with the standard sources available whether that is government issued or from the regulators or business companion.