

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Food Written Examiner's Report September 2023

General

5 candidates sat the written exam in this cycle. This was a re-sit exam, and it would be expected that candidates who had previously failed would want to gain higher marks.

Some candidates have had experience of real time enforcement activities and as such gained marks for their Section B answers. However, some did still demonstrate a lack of knowledge of food law enforcement in practice.

The experience to gain these skills can only be provided by the candidates employing Authority.

Section A

These were a range of answers given, some answered very well but some candidates struggled to even gain low marks for some of the Section A questions.

Q1. Answered very poorly. Worrying in that a great deal of a Food Officers time can be taken up in dealing with food claims

Q2. Only answered by two candidates and both answers both only gained very low marks. Again, worrying in that Lead Food Officers in local authorities are required to check and authorise a new qualified Officer`s competence before they can undertake any food enforcement

Q3. Answered competently by the candidates who chose this question.

Q4. Only answered by one candidate who gained almost full marks. It was surprising that other candidates didn`t choose to answer this question

Q5. Answered well by all candidates. Indeed, this and the answers to Q.6 saved some candidates from failing the paper

Q6. Answered well by all candidates

Section B

Section B questions include scenario type questions and give candidates with practical food enforcement experience a chance to demonstrate their knowledge. Those that could demonstrate that knowledge gained good marks.

Q7. Only attempted by one candidate who answered very poorly. As the “due diligence” defence is the cornerstone of all criminal legislation in Trading Standards Services (W&M, Safety, Fair Trading, etc,) I would have expected that all candidates would have a good understanding of it and its associated case law.

Q8. Answers given were variable. The question asked for the outline to a local food investigation. Candidates with investigative experience on food offences should have gained high marks.

Q9. The question required that the answer to be given in the form of trade advice. As such in depth discussions on labelling were not required

Q10. Answered well by the candidates who attempted it. The lack of accurate allergen information to be provided to consumers continues to be an issue for many Services and it was pleasing that candidates had knowledge on how to progress complaints in this area.