



MODULE 6 HONEY BEE BEHAVIOUR SYLLABUS

Applicable from January 2020

Aims

The Modules are designed to give beekeepers the opportunity to study the craft of apiculture further with the goals of obtaining an Intermediate Theory Certificate and an Advanced Theory Certificate.

Conditions of Entry

The Candidate is recommended to have kept and managed bees for at least 2 seasons.

Modules can be taken in any order with the exception of Module 8, which shall be the last module to be taken.

The secretary to the Board shall have received a completed Application Form and fee by the 10th February for March Series and by 30th September for the November series of the Module Examinations.

A maximum of FOUR modules can be taken at any one session

Award of Certificates

A BBKA Certificate will be awarded for each module passed and the pass mark will be 60% for all modules. (Credit 70%, Distinction 80%)

In addition:

- The BBKA Intermediate Theory Certificate will be awarded when modules 1, 2, 3 and one other from 5, 6 or 7 have been passed.
- The BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate will be awarded when all modules been passed.
- The BBKA Master Beekeeper Certificate will be awarded to a beekeeper who has obtained a BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate and the BBKA Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry.
- In order to qualify for either a BBKA Intermediate or BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate the necessary modules must be passed in a time period not exceeding 12 years.

The Examination

Each module examined consists of a written paper. There will be three sections to the paper; Section A requires one or two word answers, Section B (4 questions from a choice of 5) requires short answers in note form, Section C (1 question from a choice of 2) requires more detailed answers. Candidates will be expected to use scientific nomenclature where applicable.

The Examiners may include in any Module examination any topic from the Basic Assessment syllabus.

Candidates' papers will be retained by the Examinations Board. The candidate is able to request a résumé of their paper on payment of the appropriate fee.





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The Candidate shall be able to give a detailed account of:-

- 6.1 the function and behaviour of the worker honey bee throughout its life including the types of work done, duration of work periods under normal circumstances and the variations in behaviour due to seasonal changes in the state of the colony;
- 6.2 the mating behaviour of the honey bee queen and drone including an account of the pheromones involved and the concept of drone congregation areas;
- 6.3 the queen honey bee's egg laying behaviour and its relationship to changing circumstances in the hive and external factors relating to climate and season;
- 6.4 the seasonal variations in the population size of a honey bee colony and an explanation of such variations;
- 6.5 the social organisation of the honey bee colony including worker policing;
- 6.6 the methods of communication used by the honey bee including food sharing (trophallaxis), dancing, scenting and vibration;
- 6.7 the behaviour of the foraging bee and its work methods in the field including orientation;
- 6.8 the behaviour of the worker bee towards intruders and the theories advanced to describe the means by which colonies recognise intruders;
- 6.9 the collection of nectar and water and their use by the colony;
- 6.10 the inter-relationship of nectar, honey and water in the honey bee colony;
- 6.11 the conversion of nectar to honey including the hydrolysis of sucrose, the evaporation of water, and the role of the honey bee in accomplishing these changes;
- 6.12 the collection, storage and use of pollen by the honey bee colony;
- 6.13 the collection and use of propolis by the honey bee colony;
- 6.14 the conditions leading to swarming;
- 6.15 the conditions leading to supersedure;
- 6.16 the behaviour of swarms and the method of selection by the swarm of a site for a new home;
- 6.17 the initiation of comb building and the construction of comb;
- 6.18 the colony in winter and summer with special reference to ventilation, humidity and temperature control (homeostasis);
- 6.19 laying workers and drone laying queens and the conditions leading to their development;
- 6.20 the effects of pathogens, parasites and pests on bee behaviour;
- 6.21 the learning behaviour of honey bees;





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Arrangements

The Assessment venue and the Invigilation are arranged by the Local Examination Secretary. Approval for these arrangements shall be obtained from the Secretary to the Board at least five weeks before the date of the Assessment.

Application to Enter

These should be made through the Local Examination Secretary of the County Beekeeping Association or directly to the Secretary of the Board at the address given below. Applications are required at least six weeks before the date on which the Assessment is to be taken. Available dates for the Assessments can be found on the BBKA Website or may be obtained from the Board Secretary.

Application Form

Every application must be accompanied by a completed Application Form together with the Assessment Fee. Cheques should be made payable to BBKA.

Assessment Fees

The current fee for any Assessment may be obtained from the Secretary to the Board or the Local Examination Secretary.

AUTHORITY

The above is issued by the BBKA Examinations Board and all communications in respect of the Assessments should be addressed to:

The Secretary
BBKA Examinations Board
National Beekeeping Centre
Stoneleigh Park
KENILWORTH
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

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