

The British Beekeepers Association

Examinations Board



Standards in Honeybee Husbandry

A Route towards Beekeeping Excellence

SYLLABUS

for the

Show Judge Certificate

EXAMINATIONS BOARD
THE BBKA SHOW JUDGE ASSESSMENT
SYLLABUS
Applicable from January 2021

Aims

The BBKA Show Judge Assessment aims to provide a goal for those beekeepers who have comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of exhibiting honey and honey bee products. It is designed for those who wish to judge at large, national and international honey shows and have gained considerable experience in entering and obtaining awards in these shows.

1.0 *Stage 1 applying for the Show Judge Assessment:*

In order to be assessed in Show Judging, candidates will need to demonstrate experience of basic beekeeping, winning awards and stewarding at major honey shows.

- 1.1 The Candidate must hold the BBKA Basic Certificate or equivalent*.
- 1.2 The Candidate must have been awarded at least 30 prizes of 1st, 2nd or 3rd in open classes at qualifying shows**. Awards must be in at least 10 different categories (see section 4.0 below) to demonstrate a broad knowledge of showing.
- 1.3 The Candidate must have acted as Steward for at least **four** BBKA Show Judges. Entries should cover at least 10 different categories (see section 4.0 below). It is recommended that these are different Show Judges but some duplication is acceptable.
- 1.4 Application forms must be completed fully.
- 1.5 On successful application the candidate will be provided with the Show Judge Record Book.
- 1.6 The candidate will also be provided with a list of BBKA Show Judges and a list of those who are approved to carry out the supervised Judging assessment. See stage 2.

2.0 *Stage 2 completing the Show Judge Record Book:*

All assessment requirements should be carried out and recorded in the *Show Judge Record Book* within five years after application and will be **in addition** to those required in the conditions of entry. Where requirements refer to different categories, candidates should refer to the notes in Section 4.0 *Categories*. In essence, the Board needs to be satisfied that the Candidate has a wide knowledge of Shows and the experience gained is not only of a 'local' nature so the Candidate is experienced enough to undertake judging commissions at any location to which he/she may be invited.

- 2.1 The Candidate must achieve/hold the BBKA Module 1 and Module 2 Examinations or the BBKA General Husbandry Certificate (or equivalents)*** before the Show Judge Certificate can be awarded.
- 2.2 The Candidate must be awarded at least 75 prizes of third or higher at qualifying honey shows in a variety of open classes. (This is an additional 75 over and above the 30 needed in Stage 1.

If the candidate has in excess of 30 awards prior to commencing the assessment, awards in the previous 5 years may count towards the 75 awards and are to be recorded in the *Show Judge Record Book*. For example, if you had 40 awards prior to getting your Record Book you could use the 10 extra ones to count towards the 75 target. Awards must include entries in at least categories 1 to 10 inclusive and then 2 other categories from the remainder.

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- 2.3 The Candidate must act as Steward for at least **six** different BBKA Show Judges at qualifying honey shows**. It is recommended that these are different shows but some duplication is acceptable.
- 2.4 The Candidate *must* record details of at least one other relevant experience. This may be acting as Show Secretary or other tasks involved in setting up a Honey Show.
- 2.5 The candidate must provide evidence of having judged a minimum of **5** separate Shows. These need not be qualifying shows.

At least 5 categories (see section 4.0 below) *must* be judged per show.

Overall, evidence of judging categories 1-10 *must* be included plus two from categories 11-14.

Three of these shows must be assessed by BBKA Show Judge Assessor and each assessment has to be of a standard that the approved BBKA Show Judge Assessor can recommend a pass. Therefore, in order to get three passes you may well have more than three assessments in the five year period.

2.6 ***The Supervised Judging Assessments:***

- The candidate should negotiate with Show Judge Assessors from the approved list to arrange a suitable assessment venue for the supervised judging assessments.
- The Candidate is to advise the Board Secretary, at least one month before the show, the intended date, show venue, Show Judge Assessor and Show Secretary who will supervise and facilitate the assessment respectively. An email to this effect is acceptable.
- The Assessor will be a different BBKA Show Judge Assessor for each of supervised judging assessments.
- The candidate will be assessed against the criteria detailed in the syllabus. The Assessor will use a standard assessment form supplied by the Examinations Board which, when completed, will be returned to the Board Secretary. Should the assessment not reach the required standard the approved BBKA Show Judge Assessor will convert the assessment to a tutorial session and the candidate must make arrangements for an additional assessment. As stated above you may well do more than 3 assessments.
- Candidates may not refer to the syllabus or any other document during the assessment.

2.7 The completed ***Show Judge Record Book*** must be sent to the Board Secretary.

3.0 ***Stage 3 the Final Judging:***

- 3.1 When all the assessment requirements have been met the final supervised judging and viva voce will be arranged by the Board Secretary with BBKA Show Judge Assessors and a Show Secretary. At least one month's notice is required for arrangements to be made.
- 3.2 The final supervised judging and viva voce will be held at a suitable venue with two BBKA Show Judge Assessors nominated by the Board. The focus of this final assessment will be based on the criteria detailed in the syllabus, the contents of the ***Show Judge Record Book*** and the Assessment reports.
- 3.3 The candidate will be asked to judge a single class (picked by the assessors based on the candidates judging Record Book). The Candidate will be expected to treat the session as an example of 'Open Judging'.

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4.0 *Categories*

The candidate is required to provide evidence of judging experience gained in categories 1 to 10 and *two* other categories from the remaining.

- 1 Liquid Honey
- 2 Granulated Honey and Soft Set Honey
- 3 Commercial Classes
- 4 Composite Classes
- 5 Comb Suitable for Extraction
- 6 Cut Comb and Sections
- 7 Mead (Including honey-beer and vinegar)
- 8 Wax
- 9 Candles
- 10 Honey Cakes and Honey Sweetmeats
- 11 Displays
- 12 Photographs
- 13 Observation Hives
- 14 Nuclei
- 15 Heather Honey
- 16 Microscope slides
- 17 Paintings and handicrafts

5.0 *Results*

- 5.1 The Examination Board Secretary will notify the Candidate of the Board's decision.
- 5.2 If the candidate is not successful the Examination Board will provide feedback and indicate which part of the assessment has to be repeated.

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THE SHOW JUDGES' ASSESSMENT

SYLLABUS

1.0 General Information

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 1.1 the need for procedure on being invited to act as Judge (including reference to the show schedule and rules)
- 1.2 the use of his/her judging equipment, (grading glasses, tasting rods, etc.), with particular reference to points of hygiene (use of plastic gloves). Judging equipment will be checked against a standard list.
- 1.3 the various methods of arriving at a decision (points or comparison) summation elimination and interpretation
- 1.4 the procedure/method at the show bench and in particular systems or sequences of operation, speed and the "weighting" given to flavour, viscosity, cleanliness, etc.
- 1.5 the requirement to demonstrate in each of the categories a logical process for judging the importance of time management in respect of judging the individual classes in the whole honey show scenario
- 1.6 "natural faults" of section honey, cut comb honey and combs suitable for extraction (wax moth, braula)
- 1.7 possible faking. e.g. loose cappings put on open cells, overheating or "cooking" of honey in preparation of samples of honey for the show bench, caramelising of honey, bleaching and adulteration of beeswax
- 1.8 the necessity of good food handling hygiene by Judges, Stewards and Exhibitors
- 1.9 the necessary procedures to put into place when 'open judging' (in the presence of an audience or the general public).

2.0 Honey Show Schedule and Rules

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 2.1 the contents of the BBKA Booklet "A Guide for Judges and Exhibitors of Honey and Bee Produce" – available to purchase from the BBKA.
- 2.2 the implications of studying the show schedule and show rules before they commence judging the honey and bee products at the show, particularly with reference to the type of jar, weights, sizes, numbers, area of exhibits for displays
- 2.3 the necessity to use standard B D colour grading glasses. When to replace these glasses due to wear check against the show mangers standard glasses
- 2.4 the rules concerning multiple entries where these are permitted
- 2.5 the general rules concerning the award of challenge cups, trophies and special awards.

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3.0 Legal Requirements

The Candidate shall:-

- 3.1 be aware of the current UK legal requirements for the labelling of jars of honey. Where labels are required to be put on jars of honey e.g. commercial classes and some gift classes, the labels shall be in accordance with the latest legal requirements
- 3.2 Give an account of food hygiene requirements governing the preparation of honey and hive products

4.0 Categories of exhibits to be judged

4.1 Liquid Honey

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.1.1 the different types of honey
- 4.1.2 the correct use of standard B.D. honey grading glasses
- 4.1.3 the requirement for all exhibits to be scrupulously clean, and to downgrade or disqualify as necessary
- 4.1.4 the advisability of using the elimination/comparative system of judging, except in the composite, display, mead candles cakes, observation and nuclei hives and honey sweetmeats classes where a points system must be used

4.2 Granulated Honey and Soft Set Honey

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.2.1 the difference between naturally granulated honey and soft set honey and the requirement for the honey to have dry tops with no scum and that fine granulation is preferred to coarse
- 4.2.2 the advisability of using the comparative elimination system of judging, except in the composite, cakes, and honey sweetmeats classes, displays, mead, beer and candles where a points summation system may be preferred.

4.3 Commercial Honey (MULTI JAR CLASSES)

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.3.1 the labelling conforms to present legislation
- 4.3.2 the requirement for all exhibits to be scrupulously clean, and to downgrade or disqualify as necessary
- 4.3.3 lids free from blemish and corrosion
- 4.3.4 jars filled to the correct level
- 4.3.5 conforms to schedule requirements
- 4.3.6 the need for tamper proof strips legal/non-legal requirements

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4.4 Composite Class

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.4.1 use of a designed marking sheet
- 4.4.2 judge by summation
- 4.4.3 judge items in order of depth of flavour
- 4.4.4 exhibit to schedule
- 4.4.5 submit marking sheets

4.5 Comb Suitable For Extraction

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.5.1 cleanliness in all comb honey. There will be no signs of Braula, Varroa or wax moth
- 4.5.2 no granulation or fermentation in all comb honey
- 4.5.3 complete cleanliness of the woodwork of comb honey, the woodwork of sections and the plastic container of cut comb honey
- 4.5.4 checking that sugar syrup feeding has not been used to complete the filling of combs. If detected the exhibit shall be disqualified.
- 4.5.5 cappings placed over empty cells

4.6 Cut Comb and Sections

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.6.1 cleanliness in all comb honey, especially in cut comb and sections where there will be no signs of Braula, Varroa or wax moth
- 4.6.2 no granulation or fermentation in all comb honey
- 4.6.3 complete cleanliness of the woodwork of sections and the plastic container of cut comb honey
- 4.6.4 checking that sugar syrup feeding has not been used to complete the filling of combs. If detected the exhibit shall be disqualified.
- 4.6.5 cappings placed over empty cells

4.7 Mead, Honey-beer and Honey Vinegar

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.7.1 the details in the show schedule concerning the type of bottle and cork, and the permitted ingredients used in the preparation of mead
- 4.7.2 the difference between dry mead and sweet mead
- 4.7.3 the mead being clear with virtually no sediment in the bottom of the bottle and having no secondary fermentation
- 4.7.4 other "meads" such as melomel, metheglin, cyser and pyment
- 4.7.5 the alternate methods of judging mead classes such as summation

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4.8 Wax

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.8.1 the weight will be in accordance with the show schedule
- 4.8.2 the wax may be polished or unpolished
- 4.8.3 adulteration or bleaching will be heavily down graded
- 4.8.4 if the Exhibitor uses wooden show cases that the aroma of the wax may be effected by the aroma of the wooden show case and to downgrade as necessary
- 4.8.5 the top of the wax will have a flat surface, achieved by cooling at the correct temperature
- 4.8.6 the wax will be perfectly clean and that there shall be no foreign bodies and to downgrade or disqualify as necessary.
- 4.8.7 the colour should be 'primrose' yellow

4.9 Candles

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.9.1 the candles will be made of pure beeswax and be prepared, moulded, poured, dipped or rolled in accordance with the show schedule
- 4.9.2 the Judge will light one candle to check the candles burning, indicating the correct sizing of the wick, unless specifically required not to do so by the show schedule
- 4.9.3 there shall be no smoke when the candle is burning
- 4.9.4 the "weighting" to be given to the method of production
- 4.9.5 the importance of wick size and the effect that a wrong size wick may have been used.
- 4.9.6 Judging by summation

4.10 Honey Cakes and Honey Sweetmeats

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.10.1 the cake and sweetmeats will be in accordance with the show schedule
- 4.10.2 the cake should not have sunk in the middle, and if fruit is used in the recipe it should not have fallen to the bottom
- 4.10.3 the cake will be cut in half with a suitable knife to check its texture
- 4.10.4 the cake and sweetmeats shall be tasted for honey flavour and the aroma noted. Method of checking for aroma and method of cutting for tasting
- 4.10.5 An ingredients list and recipe is required if not in the show schedule check schedule carefully

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4.11 Displays

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

4.11.1 this is the class in any honey show that is the least defined and that he/she will check very carefully the details in the show schedule

4.11.2 he/she will check all items for cleanliness, purity, aroma and flavour, and the mead, beeswax, honey and comb honey as detailed in the previous sections on these items

4.11.3 there are particular methods of judging that may have to be employed in this class.

4.12 Photographs

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

4.12.1 sharpness of focus of the subject of the photograph method used by photographers

4.12.2 composition and interpretation of the photograph required in the schedule

4.12.3 subject of the photograph

4.12.4 originality be aware of cheating by the use of down loaded images

4.12.5 contrast

4.12.6 any narrative if applicable

4.12.7 sizes of print and mount to be as defined in the Schedule.

4.13 Observation Hives

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

4.13.1 the welfare of the bees is of paramount importance and if any distress is visible through overcrowding in observation hives this must be rectified immediately by the Show Judge or Show Secretary

4.13.2 they will be judged for educational purposes

4.13.3 all items in the hive shall be labelled with labels placed on the outside of the glass or Perspex of the hive

4.13.4 the Queen will be marked with the correct year

4.13.5 water must be available and not just honey or sugar syrup for the bees

4.13.6 there must be adequate ventilation built into the observation hive construction

4.13.7 the bees shall be allowed to fly if this is permissible

4.13.8 the presence of any notifiable disease will disqualify the exhibit

4.13.9 there are alternative methods of judging the observation hive.

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4.14 Nucleus Hives

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.14.1 demonstrate brood in all stages of development
- 4.14.2 have 3 to 6 combs covered with bees, including drones
- 4.14.3 have some sealed honey
- 4.14.4 have combs of good condition
- 4.14.5 have written records of the colony details
- 4.14.6 have bees of good temperament

4.15 Heather Honey

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.15.1 the difference between ling heather honey and bell heather honey and to be able to demonstrate a method of judging Ling Heather indicating the means of determining its quality and characteristics
- 4.15.2 how to look and find bricks or partial granulation
- 4.15.3 how to judge for thixotropic level of heather honey
- 4.15.4 the use of illumination to look at the quality of the exhibit

4.16 Microscope Slides

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.16.1 the neatness of slide including the description
- 4.16.2 the quality of mounting bubble free
- 4.16.3 correct staining to suit the exhibit
- 4.16.4 conformance to schedule

4.17 Paintings and Handicrafts

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.17.1 judge against schedule
- 4.17.2 allow for age handicap
- 4.17.3 judge for interpretation
- 4.17.4 the composition and interpretation of the painting
- 4.17.5 judge for the craftsmanship and originality of the production

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APPLICATION TO ENTER

Application to enter.

This should be made through the Local Examination Secretary of the County Beekeeping Association or directly to the BBKA Examination Secretary at the Address given below.

Application Form.

Any application must be accompanied by a completed Application Form together with the Assessment Fee. Cheques should be made payable to BBKA. The dates when any relevant certificates were obtained must be entered on the Application Form. Certificates should not be sent. A list of awards and experience as required by the prospectus shall be included with the application.

Assessment Fees.

The current fees for the Assessments may be obtained from the Local Examination Secretary or the Board 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,
The British Beekeepers' Association,
Stoneleigh Park,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire.
CV8 2LG

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