

Welcome

The newsletter is designed to ensure centres are kept up-to-date with important information regarding the Certificate of Professional Competence in Road Haulage and Passenger Transport Operation. I hope it has become a source of useful and informative news and updates.

In order to make this publication work for you, you are invited to submit articles or ideas to the editor Cath Smith by email: smith.c@ocr.org.uk.

March results

All of the examiner team and OCR staff in Coventry were somewhat disappointed with candidate performance during the March 2006 CPC examination session. All centres had been informed on numerous occasions that the case studies would be pre-released on the OCR website three weeks before the examination date yet numerous candidates did not appear to have been advised of this or had taken no notice of the opportunity this provides. It still appeared that many of the candidates did not answer the questions in the context of the case study and lost many marks as a result of this.

It was also obvious from questions that were not attempted or only partially attempted that candidates lacked a basic understanding of the examination techniques they should now employ when the changes to the syllabus and examination paper construction are considered. A separate article in the newsletter will give some tips for candidates on the techniques they should adopt.

Within both new national papers there are four compulsory areas of questioning in:

- Drivers' hours, working time and records (Assessment Objective 2)
- Costing (Assessment Objective 3)
- Operator licensing (Assessment Objective 8)
- Vehicle maintenance (Assessment Objective 12)

These compulsory assessments were identified by the Department for Transport as requiring particular attention by Operator Licence Applicants. Performance indicated that many candidates need to improve their performance greatly in these areas.

Examination technique

All centres are advised to instruct their students on the approach they should take to the National papers now that the revised syllabus has been introduced. The construction of each national paper is in two sections 'A' and 'B' with four questions in each. 90 marks are available for the entire paper with section 'A' carrying 50% of these marks. Candidates must achieve a score of 65% of the part 'A' marks and 50% for the paper overall.

This emphasis on the part 'A' questions means that every candidate should always attempt all part 'A' questions. No one can afford to miss any one of these questions if they are to gain a pass grade. The only way in which one question could be missed and still to gain a pass is by having 100% perfect answers on the remaining three part 'A' questions and good marks in all part 'B' questions. Candidates should aim for a reasonable achievement (minimum 65% of the available marks) on each of the four part 'A' questions. Part B questions are then available to top up to 50% of the marks in the paper overall.

Now to technique. When first reading the paper candidates should concentrate on the part A questions. They should by all means prioritise them in terms of those they can do best but attempt all four. Secondly candidates should look at the part 'B' questions and prioritise them. They should do the ones in part 'A' they know best first but attempt them all. If they do run out of time on, say, the last part 'B' question it may not be the end of the world as they may already have done enough to gain an overall 50% of the marks on the paper.

Contacts for queries

For information on a wide range of queries, including examination dates and information on scheme content, please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **024 76 851509** or vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

For all aspects concerning the administration of the qualification, including processing of candidate entries and results, please contact Operations Department on **024 76 470033**.

For results enquiries, please contact Vocational Assessment Business Support Services on **024 76 470033**.

A new resource for CPC students

To help all students in their preparation for the CPC examinations and to help tutors as they develop training programmes to prepare students for the CPC examinations, OCR is pleased to announce the availability of a new resource. The OCR CPC Student guide containing full overviews of the units, links to useful reference and study material on the web, a typical breakdown of the areas of responsibility of a transport manager and profile case studies of transport managers in several sizes of organisation.

The OCR CPC Student guide will be available as a free of charge download from the OCR website. This valuable resource should be recommended to everyone preparing for the CPC examinations and planning to take on the role of transport manager. Access to the OCR CPC Student guide on the OCR website will make it publicly available to everyone if they studying in a training centre or working on a home study programme.

Changes to Legislation affecting CPC Examinations

OCR will not test any legislation that does not apply at the examination date. In the past OCR has tested new requirements until they have been in place for at least three months but with the Department of Transport requirement to test in four compulsory areas at each examination, legislation changes affecting these areas will be tested as they come into force.

As far as the new drivers' hours Regulation is concerned (it also changes a number of issues relating to tachographs including the mandatory fitment of digital tachographs to vehicles registered after 1 May), not everything is changing although the existing Regulation (3820/85) is being revoked in April 2007 and replaced with the new one (561/2006).

Centres may find the following paragraph useful:

Regulation 561/2006 has introduced a number of changes from 1 May 2006 including the requirement to fit digital tachographs to new vehicles, the need for drivers to carry their work records for the current week and the preceding 15 calendar days, the requirement to use the crossed hammers symbol for "other work" and only to use the "packing case" symbol for periods of availability and the requirement to download and retain data from digital vehicle units and driver cards.

Regulation 561/2006 will revoke Regulation 3820/85 from 11 April 2007 and will introduce a number of changes to the EU drivers' hours' rules from that date.

Please note: more details can be downloaded from the e-community.

Important dates

9 June 2006 CPC Exam

8 September 2006 CPC Exam

8 December 2006 CPC Exam

Results enquiries and appeals

Centres are reminded that all results enquiries must be received by OCR within three months of receipt of certificates. Results enquiries may be requested for all CPC examinations (units one to seven). The revision guide document previously provided with results for modules one, two and three is no longer available. Should candidates require feedback on performance in units one, two and three then a results enquiry must be requested and the relevant fee paid. Arithmetic checks are not available for units one, two and three.

Appeals are only accepted if a results enquiry has already been completed and must be submitted within 14 calendar days of the receipt of the outcome of the results enquiry.

For full details on results enquiries and appeals please refer to the Administrative Guide available to download on OCR website.

www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

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