

NZFBI EXAM 2009

Unit 3 - Science

Question 1:

The candidate was asked questions around the gas laws and carry out equations using them.

An easy question using basic formula. Candidates answered poorly with only half attempting this question and only two gaining sufficient marks for a pass. Gas questions often come up in the science paper so learn the formulas and don't forget to use the Kelvin temperature scale in working. Show workings to get marks if answer is incorrect.

Question 2:

Required the candidate to understand back-draught.

New topic to this paper following the audit of content. All those that attempted this question gained a pass in it, which is pleasing to see. There were some very good answers which covered the content in detail. Very important aspect to be aware of with modern construction methods and improved ventilation/double glazing.

Question 3:

Basic chemistry questions involving extinguishing mediums and chemicals.

Very poor result on all counts, no passes were awarded for this question. Whilst not common in practice, this is still part of the syllabus and should not be overlooked. It is important to recognise the diversity of extinguishing mediums available to crews and their affect on varying substances.

Question 4:

Electricity question on resistance.

Few candidates attempted this question. Of those that did only three gained a pass. This aspect of fire science is usually overlooked by candidates, so may appear again in the future papers. Most knew the formulas but not how to apply them. There were some good answers.

Question 5:

Question based around chemical equations.

Another very easy question for those that understood some chemical names and equations. the matching of names to equations could have been a matter of elimination if not entirely sure. Less than half passed this question. Some very bad guessing was evident.

Question 6:

Mechanics question using simply formulas.

Good results by those that knew the formulas. Basic question for this paper. Don't forget to show your workings for marks if the answer is incorrect.

SUMMARY

It was obvious in marking this paper to see those that had studied and those who had not. A little effort is required to pass this paper.