

IFE Level 4 Certificate in Fire Safety and Fire Science

Unit 7 – Civil Emergency and Disaster Management

Examiner Report – March 2015

Introduction

Only 25 candidates took this examination. Those candidates who took the paper generally performed to Pass level .

Candidates who were unsuccessful in the examination generally failed to provide sufficient depth and breadth in their responses to the questions. At Level 4 candidates, should be able to draw on a wide range of knowledge and understanding to present information and assess diverse situations.

It was notable that candidates often provided reasonable, or good, responses to only one element (usually part a)) of questions and this limited the amount of marks that they could achieve. Hence, few candidates achieved very high marks.

Question 1

- a) *Define the following categories of disaster, providing two examples of each and indicating their speed of onset:*
- i. *Natural (4 marks)*
 - ii. *Manmade (4 marks)*
- b) *Explain, using examples, the planning that can be put in place in preparation for potential disasters. (12 marks)*

Examiner Feedback

Most candidates provided a good response to part a) and included appropriate examples.

Responses to part b) were generally poor. Candidates often focused on basic processes rather than taking a strategic approach and considering planning from the perspective of contingency planning, disaster response planning or institutional disaster planning.

Question 2

Following any major disaster where there have been many deaths, the identification of bodies can be a difficult process.

- a) *Explain, highlighting any limitations, the physical methods of identification that can be used to identify victims. (12 marks)*

b) Detail the factors that have to be taken into account in setting up a temporary mortuary. (8 marks)

Examiner Feedback

In response to part a), most candidates were able to identify physical methods of identification. However, some candidates failed to explain the methods and/or failed to explore any limitations as required by the question and this limited the marks that could be awarded to them.

In response to part b), candidates often failed to consider key factors such as the location of the morgue and the utilities that were required.

Question 3

a) Identify and explain the difficulties in dealing with victims of a major civil disaster in a remote location. (12 marks)

b) Describe the phases in the Disaster Management Cycle. (8 marks)

Examiner Feedback

In response to part a), most candidates successfully identified some difficulties but again some candidates failed to expand their responses and did not provide the required explanations. There was a tendency to focus on access issues and most candidates failed to identify communications and language/culture as difficulties that may need to be overcome.

Most candidates provided good responses to part b)

Question 4

Training is an essential element in the preparation for responding to disasters.

a) Identify key training topics and explain their importance. (14 marks)

b) Outline the training methods that can be used, highlighting any limitations. (6 marks)

Examiner Feedback

This question was generally answered well. Some candidates only listed training topics in response to part a) rather than providing a more detailed description and explanation.

Question 5

a) In relation to resilience and contingency planning, define the following terms:

i. Contingency Planning (2 marks)

ii. Emergency Planning (2 marks)

- iii. Disaster Recovery (2 marks)*
 - iv. Combined Response (2 marks)*
 - v. Business Continuity (2 marks)*
- b) With the aid of a diagram, detail the steps in a business continuity cycle. (10 marks)*

Examiner Feedback

Those candidates that responded to this question generally provided good responses to part a) and were able to define most of the terms well.

However, few candidates understood the concept of business continuity and, as a result, responses to part b) often failed to cover the steps in the cycle. Some candidates confused continuity cycle with operational models. The five steps required were:

- Understanding the business
- Determining continuity strategies
- Developing the response
- Establishing the continuity culture
- Exercising and plan maintenance

Question 6

In relation to voluntary assistance at civil emergencies and disasters:

- a) State the difficulties associated with informal volunteers at a disaster site and explain how they might be resolved. (6 marks)*
- b) Outline the roles of formal (organised) volunteers in regional disaster prevention and emergency response. (14 marks)*

Examiner Feedback

Responses to part a) were generally good; however, candidates often recognised the difficulties but did not go on to suggest solutions such as assessing the of skills of volunteers and undertaking planning.

Part b) was less well answered. Some candidates presented lists of organisations without explaining their roles. Candidates who recognised the way in which volunteers carry out transport, search and rescue, medical and welfare-related roles achieved high marks.

Question 7

- a) Assess the impact, both positive and negative, that media involvement at disasters can have during and after a civil disaster. (10 marks)*
- b) Explain how the media can aid emergency organisations prior to disaster events. (10 marks)*

Examiner Feedback

Successful candidates recognised the range of ways in which the media can have an impact and secured good marks for their response to part a).

Few candidates provided a good response to part b) and some candidates omitted to respond at all. Examples of positive media action prior to disasters include lobbying, raising awareness of risks and helping to improve coordination.

Question 8

In relation to the analysis of hazards and risks associated with the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents:

- a) What are the key areas that have to be covered to analyse the safety of a major hazard installation? (9 marks)*
- b) What are the formalised methods to follow to ensure reasonable completeness and comparability? (3 marks)*
- c) What information should an accident consequence analysis contain? (8 marks)*

Examiner Feedback

Few candidates responded to this question. Candidates with specialist understanding were able to achieve good marks whilst those with limited understanding of the subject achieved only low marks.