

## **Professional Skill Module 2: May 2014 Exam Report (Internal Examiner)**

### **Question 1**

This question was taken straight from the module notes provided to candidates. The question required candidates to identify and describe documents that are required to be utilised in compiling price determination documents for public sector projects.

#### ***Comment:***

This question had the lowest average mark achieved by candidates (54%) but was reasonably well answered overall. The greatest shortcoming was in the ability to provide comprehensive explanatory notes in support of the listing.

### **Question 2**

This question was based on study guide clause 2.2. Candidates were expected to be able to identify and describe in detail, utilising examples, at least 4 of the 5 different BOQ formats described in the literature.

#### ***Comment:***

Very few candidates struggled with this, the average mark achieved being 60%. Where poorer marks were achieved, this was mostly for answers where the explanatory sections were considered to be too limited in breadth / depth, or where candidates failed to provide sufficiently useful examples.

### **Question 3**

This was a straightforward question on the principle procurement document produced by QS's, and described in Clause 1.4 of the study guide. It required candidates to describe the typical BOQ layout and content (the core content of the study guide).

#### ***Comment:***

Candidates generally handled this question quite well, with the average mark achieved being 57%. Lack of attention to scope and depth of explanatory text was the main reason for a small number of candidates not achieving satisfactory marks.

#### **Generally:**

The general performance in this examination is pleasing. In the examiner's opinion, the knowledge displayed is generally superior to that of current Honours students registered for fulltime degree courses at traditional universities. This is most likely because the material covers very practical issues which candidates would have exposure to within quantity surveying practice on a daily basis. Notwithstanding this, it is clear that most candidates were well prepared for the examination.

**R G Pearl**

**Internal Examiner**

05 June 2014

**SA COUNCIL FOR THE QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION  
EXTERNAL MODERATOR'S REPORT  
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS MODULE NO. 2: MANAGE THE PRODUCTION PROCESS OF  
PRICE DETERMINATION DOCUMENTS FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS  
MAY 2014 EXAMINATION**

I was required to perform a moderation function on 59 individual exam scripts relating to PSM 2. This is a course taken by candidate quantity surveyors registered with the SACQSP. A pass in 18 such modules is required before being admitted to the APC. I was not required to moderate the assignment mark component of the Module, as a pass for the Assignment was for DP purposes only i.e., for admittance into the examination. As part of the moderation process I reviewed in detail a sample of 6 (10%) scripts, paying special attention to both horizontal and vertical consistency in the marking. More specifically, I reviewed all scripts falling in the 45-49% range. I also reviewed all scripts attaining 50%. I have indicated the scripts I reviewed on the internal examiner's marksheet.

The examination comprised three questions. Question 1 [35 marks] focussed on candidates' understanding of the Standard for Uniformity in Construction Procurement in relation to public sector projects. Question 2 [30 marks] focused on formats of Bills of Quantities. Question 3 [35 marks] required candidates to identify and describe the typical sections that comprise Bills of Quantities.

**External examiner's comments**

I arithmetically checked the 6 scripts sampled that each mark had been correctly transcribed from the scripts to the spreadsheet. No errors were found. The internal examiner had checked the arithmetic and transcription of marks for all scripts.

Three candidates attained marks of 48%, 49% and 48%, respectively. After careful consideration of individual questions, I decided to raise the 49% of the one candidate to achieve a pass mark of 50%. The two marks of 48% were left unchanged; as the answers were simply too superficial to warrant higher marks. The internal examiner was very fair and consistent in his allocation of marks.

Before moderation, seven (7) candidates had failed. The top candidate attained 75%. The exam marks *range from 40% to 75%*, with an average of 57%. In terms of my moderation, 53 candidates (90%) passed, and 6 (10%) failed.

The range breakdown is as follows:

40-49%: 6  
50-59%: 33  
60-69%: 18  
70%+: 2

The average mark for Q1 is 19 out of 35. For Q2 the average mark is 18 out of 30, and for Q3 it is 20 out of 35. The results are pleasing. The report provided by the internal examiner is useful. I agree entirely with the comments of the internal examiner.

**1.3 General comments**

I benefitted from being provided with a memorandum outlining the internal examiner's comments on his requirements. Such a memorandum should be made available to all candidates who wrote the

exam, as part of the learning process. I trust that you find these comments useful. The signed revised mark sheet will be returned under separate cover.

Professor PA Bowen  
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28th May 2014