

IFE Level 3 Certificate (former Intermediate) Examination:

Important Notice for Candidates.

March 2010 is the last occasion when the Level 3 Certificate (former Intermediate) examinations can be taken in their current format as set out below:-

Paper 1: 2 hours; 100 multiple choice questions covering Fire Engineering Science, Fire Safety, Operations & Equipment and Management & Administration.

Paper 2: 2 hours; 20 short answer questions covering Fire Engineering Science, Fire Safety, Operations & Equipment and Management & Administration.

This means that candidates who still need to pass one examination paper at this level will have one more opportunity to take this paper (in March 2010,) before the format changes completely.

From March 2011, the examinations for this qualification will adopt the following format:-

Paper 1: 1 hour; 25 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions on Fire Engineering Science.

Paper 2: 1 hour; 25 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions on Fire Safety.

Paper 3: 1 hour; 25 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions on Operations and Equipment.

Paper 4: 1 hour; 25 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions on Management and Administration.

Papers 1 and 2 will run consecutively in one 2 hour examination session while Papers 3 and 4 will run consecutively during the second 2 hour session.

The syllabus for the Level 3 Certificate examinations will remain essentially the same in 2011 as in 2010. Only the format of the examinations will be different.

The change of format will benefit candidates:-

1. Every examination will match one unit accredited by Ofqual and as candidates pass each unit they will be entitled to a certificate underwritten by Ofqual to that effect.
2. At the moment candidates receive an underwritten certificate only when they have passed both examination papers and have accumulated all four units.
3. Reporting the results of multiple-unit examinations on a pass/fail basis does not identify candidates' particular strengths and weaknesses across four component elements. Single-unit examinations give candidates credit for their strengths and enable them to focus on preparing for units they have previously failed.

This change should also facilitate the conversion of the IFE's qualifications from Ofqual's National Qualification Framework to the Qualifications and Credit Framework, a process that has to be completed by December 31st 2010.