



Fire Services Examinations Board

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER AND THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS ON THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
FOR PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF LEADING FIREFIGHTER
PART I – WRITTEN EXAMINATION 2005 – 2ND RE-SIT

1. The examination was set on the syllabus of study published in October 2004. This was the twenty first occasion on which the qualifying examination for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter was conducted by the Board.
2. Assessors responsible for the setting of question papers, the preparation of notes for the guidance of examiners and for the co-ordination of marking were appointed as follows:

Lead Assessor: Mr H E Wright
General Assessor (Scotland): Mr A J Early

3. Examination centres at 16 locations were arranged by the local examination boards.
4. The examination was held on Tuesday 13 September 2005.
5. 40 candidates initially entered for the examination as at the Board's closing date for entries (15 July). However, the final number of candidates entering the examination was 39, after late entries and withdrawals had both been accepted. 10 (25.6%) absented themselves from the examination. Thus, the number of candidates who attended the examination was 29.
6. A total of 11 officers attended the marking session together with one Assisting Assessor, one Technical Adviser, the Lead Assessor and the Acting General Assessor (Scotland).
7. The marking of scripts took place at Daventry from 30 October to 1 November 2005.

Results

8. Of the 29 candidates who attempted the whole examination, 29 (100.0%) were awarded a pass. *Appendix B (Table II) shows the cumulative results for all candidates entered.*
9. The 29 candidates attempting the examination included 3 females.
10. 10 candidates were absent for all papers of the examination. No candidates were absent from individual papers. Under the Restriction of Entry Scheme, no appeals were received.

General Comments

11. The written test for the qualifying examination for promotion to the rank of Leading Firefighter held in September 2005 was the twenty first and last to be held under the auspices of the Fire Services Examinations Board. As part of the transitional arrangements, this examination could only be entered by candidates already in the system who had achieved a pass in a minimum of one of the four Papers in accordance with the flexible system when taking this examination. Those who have failed in their attempts to achieve the necessary passes in this examination in the specified time, together with those who now enter the fire and rescue service, will in the future be assessed as part of the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS).
12. The number of candidates who initially entered the September 2005 examination was 39, and the number of candidates absenting themselves was 10 (25.6%) which in percentage terms is an increase to that experienced last year but, far less in number. This left 29 actually attempting the examination.
13. Of the 29 candidates who sat the examination, all achieved a pass.
14. The flexible system of taking the examination enabled candidates to take two, three or four papers in their first attempt. Thereafter, having passed at least one of these papers, the candidates had a maximum of two further attempts available in which to obtain a pass in any remaining papers and thus achieve success in this qualifying examination.
15. Having noted that all candidates achieved the necessary passes in all four papers, it should also be noted that the 10 candidates who absented themselves have failed to successfully complete the examination within the set period, with the result that these candidates will not now be able to progress further to achieve a full pass.
16. The expected major reduction in the number of candidates sitting the examination resulted in a general improvement in the quality of scripts submitted. It was very evident that those who sat this last examination were intent in doing their best to achieve the necessary level of knowledge and

understanding of the relevant subjects, and their efforts were justly rewarded. The weakest areas of knowledge and understanding, albeit not too significant, were in the Human Resource Management Paper and were related to the functions of a leader in order to satisfy the needs of individuals, and the requirements of the Management of the Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations.

17. As the numbers taking this examination have never been so few and a 100% pass rate never having previously been achieved, comparison with the results achieved by candidates attempting the previous examination would appear unnecessary but do clearly imply confirmation for the comments previously made. The statistics provided in the appendices to this report identify the small number of candidates sitting each Paper and the general inadequacy of any candidate would have been very evident.
18. There were no problems associated with the format of the examination or the instructions to candidates contained in the individual papers.

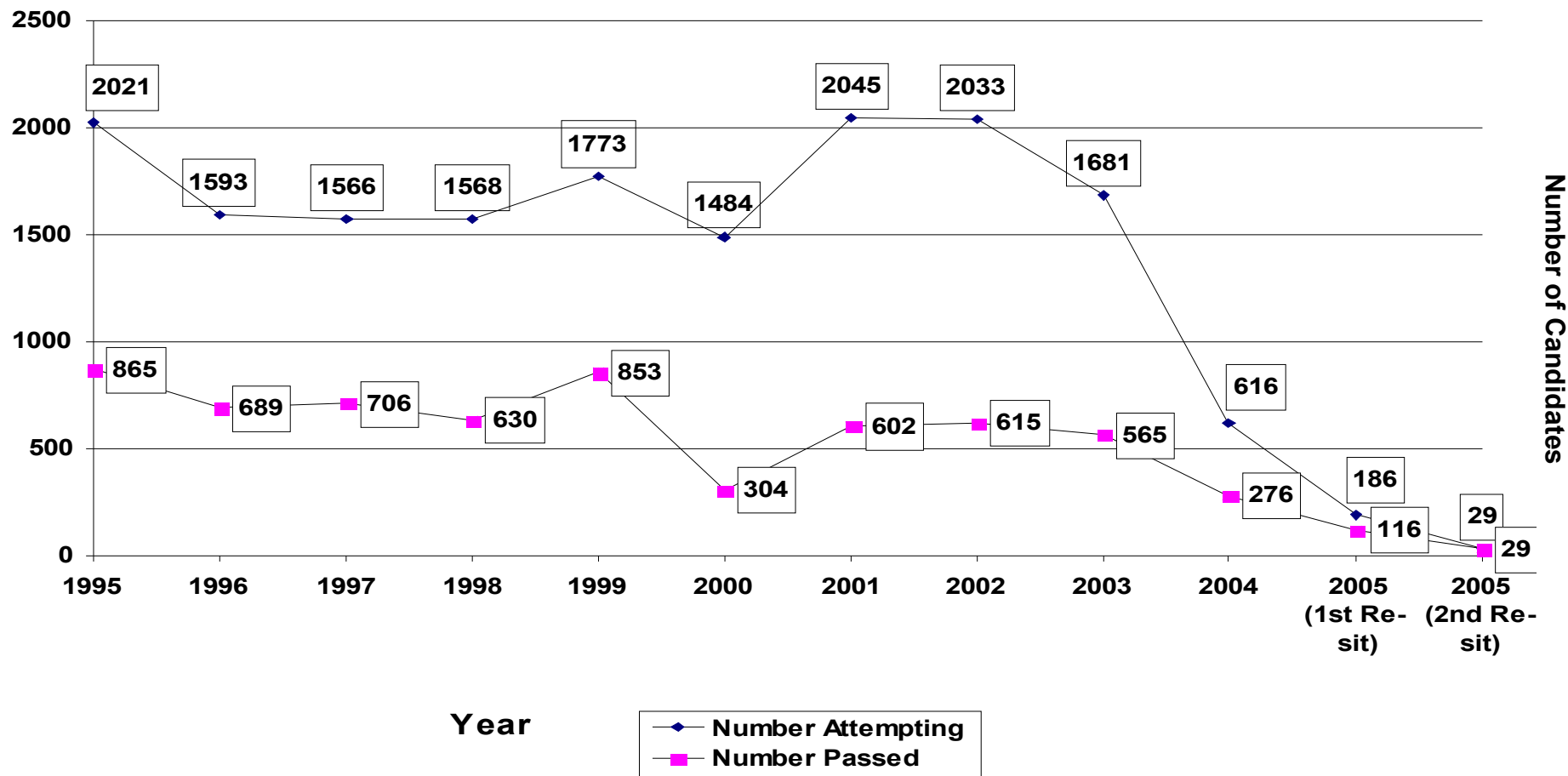
Summary of Results

19. The following tables show the results of the examination as a whole in both graphical and tabular format. A graph showing the numbers attempting the examination and the numbers passing is attached at Appendix A. A summary of statistics is attached at Appendix B and a full statistical report for the examination, including an analysis by brigade, is attached at Appendix C.

Sir G Meldrum
Chairman

D J Stanley
Secretary

Leading Firefighters' Written Examination 1995-2005





Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Leading Firefighter 2005 Written Examination - 2nd Re-sit

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

ENTRY SUMMARY

The following table provides a breakdown of candidates by the number of papers they have entered for the above examination.

Table I

Quantity of papers	Overall Total				
	Entered	Absent		Sat	
	No	No	%	No	%
1 Paper	27	5	18.52	22	81.48
2 Papers	6	2	33.33	4	66.67
3 Papers	4	3	75.00	1	25.00
4 Papers	2	0	0.00	2	100.00
Overall Total	39	10	25.64	29	74.36

OVERALL CUMULATIVE RESULTS

The following table shows the cumulative results for candidates entered (including absentees) for the above examination.

Table II

Paper Passes	Overall Total	
	No	%
Passed all papers	29	74.36
Passed 3 papers	5	12.82
Passed 2 papers	2	5.13
Passed 1 papers	3	7.69
Passed 0 papers	0	0.00
Absent with No Cumulative Credits	0	0.00
Total Candidates Entered	39	100.00

Note: 0 candidates above, with cumulative papers to date, and 10 Absent/Lapsed candidates have failed to complete the examination within the requisite period.

PAPER SUMMARY

The following table provides a breakdown of the number of candidates entered for a particular paper in the above examination and the respective results.

Table III

Paper Number	Overall Total						
	Entered	Absent		Sat		Passed	
	No	No	%	No	%	No	%
Paper 1	10	5	50.00	5	50.00	5	100.00
Paper 2	9	4	44.44	5	55.56	5	100.00
Paper 3	26	7	26.92	19	73.08	19	100.00
Paper 4	14	2	14.29	12	85.71	12	100.00

Note: Passed percentage is calculated against the number of candidates who sat the paper.



Fire Services Examinations Board

Qualifying Examination for Promotion to the Rank of Leading Firefighter 2005 Written Examination - 2nd Re-sit

FULL STATISTICAL REPORT

ANALYSIS OF ENTRIES BY AGE GROUP

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by age and their cumulative performance in the above examination.

Table I

Age Group	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Up To 20 Years	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
20 To 24	4	80.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5
25 To 29	6	60.00	2	20.00	1	10.00	1	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	10
30 To 34	7	70.00	1	10.00	1	10.00	1	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	10
35 To 39	8	80.00	2	20.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	10
40 To 44	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4
45 To 49	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
50+	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
TOTALS:	29	74.36	5	12.82	2	5.13	3	7.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	39

ANALYSIS BY RANK

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by rank and their cumulative performance in the above examination.

Table II

Rank	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Firefighter	29	74.36	5	12.82	2	5.13	3	7.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	39
TOTALS:	29	74.36	5	12.82	2	5.13	3	7.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	39

ANALYSIS BY GENDER

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by gender and their cumulative performance in the above examination.

Table III

Title	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Female	3	60.00	2	40.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5
Male	26	76.47	3	8.82	2	5.88	3	8.82	0	0.00	0	0.00	34
TOTALS:	29	74.36	5	12.82	2	5.13	3	7.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	39

ANALYSIS BY LENGTH OF SERVICE

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by length of service and their cumulative performance in the above examination.

Table IV

Length of Service	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered	
	Years	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	No	
0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
1	5	5	71.43	1	14.29	0	0.00	1	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	7
2	3	3	50.00	1	16.67	2	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	6
3	7	7	77.78	2	22.22	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	9
4	5	5	83.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	16.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	6
5	2	2	66.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	3
6	1	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
7	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
8	1	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
9	1	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
10	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
11	2	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
12	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
13	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
14	0	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
15	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
16	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
17	1	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
18	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
19	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
20	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
21	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
22	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
23	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
24	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25	1	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1
TOTALS:	29	29	74.36	5	12.82	2	5.13	3	7.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	39

ANALYSIS BY ETHNIC ORIGIN

The following table shows the distribution of candidates by ethnic origin and their cumulative performance in the above examination.

Table V

Ethnic Origin	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Declined To Say	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
Irish	0	0.00	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2
White	27	77.14	4	11.43	1	2.86	3	8.57	0	0.00	0	0.00	35
TOTALS:	29	74.36	5	12.82	2	5.13	3	7.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	39

ANALYSIS BY BRIGADE

The following table shows the cumulative results achieved in each brigade (grouped in local examination boards.) The percentage figure for absentees is calculated on the number of candidates entering the examination.

Table VI

Board	Brigade	Passed Complete Exam		Passed 3 Papers		Passed 2 Papers		Passed 1 Paper		Passed 0 Papers		Absent With No Credits		Total Entered	Total Absent	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	No	%
B	North Yorkshire	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2	100.00
B	South Yorkshire	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
sbt		1	33.33	1	33.33	0	0.00	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2	66.67
C	Greater Manchester	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1	50.00
C	Lancashire	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
sbt		2	66.67	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1	33.33
E	Hereford and Worcs	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
sbt		1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
J	London	0	0.00	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2	100.00
sbt		0	0.00	1	50.00	1	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2	100.00
L	Buckinghamshire	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0	0.00
L	Hampshire	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
sbt		5	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	0	0.00
M	Cornwall	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1	100.00
sbt		0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1	100.00
O	Avon	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	1	25.00
sbt		3	75.00	1	25.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	1	25.00
Q	Strathclyde	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0	0.00
sbt		4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0	0.00
R	Grampian	2	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0	0.00
R	Tayside	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1	100.00
sbt		2	66.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1	33.33
S	Central Scotland	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
sbt		1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
T	Northern Ireland	5	71.43	1	14.29	1	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	2	28.57
sbt		5	71.43	1	14.29	1	14.29	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	2	28.57
U	Guernsey	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0	0.00
U	Jersey	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0	0.00
sbt		5	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	0	0.00
TOTALS:		29	74.36	5	12.82	2	5.13	3	7.69	0	0.00	0	0.00	39	10	25.64

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