

Cave Diving Group Rules - Assessment Schedule.

1. Roles and Responsibilities.

- 1.1 A Trainee Diver may be elected to Qualified Diver subject to satisfactory performance in the CDG Qualified Diver Assessment.
- 1.2 Trainee Divers are responsible for providing evidence of their competence of Part A of the Qualified Diver Assessment to the Regional Section. This evidence can be of any form but must be made available for review by the Section prior to election to Qualified Diver.
- 1.3 Trainee Divers are responsible for presenting themselves to a Section Examiner (who should not be the Trainee Diver's sponsor) for Qualified Diver Assessment Parts B and C. At the Section's discretion, the Examiner can be the Trainee's sponsor.
- 1.4 Regional Sections are responsible for appointing Section Examiners who administer Parts B and C of the Qualified Diver Assessment. Examiners must be active, Qualified Divers, with suitable experience, nominated and appointed at a Section Annual General Meeting. A Regional Section may appoint up to five examiners whose status should be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 1.5 Section Examiners are responsible for proposing a Trainee Diver for Qualified Diver status at a Regional Section meeting and for providing evidence of the Trainee Diver's competence within Parts B and C of the Qualified Diver Assessment to that meeting.
- 1.6 The Central Committee is responsible for appointing an Exam Committee to provide Section Examiners with written questions and specimen answers for Part C of the Qualified Diver Assessment.
- 1.7 Regional Sections are responsible for reviewing the performance of Trainee Divers under 1.2 and 1.5 and to elect them to Qualified Diver by a simple majority vote at a Regional Section meeting.

2. Qualified Diver Assessment Standard.

The CDG Qualified Diver Assessment consists of three parts:

Part A - Submission of a record of caving and cave diving experience.

Part B - Practical Test.

Part C - Theory Test.

2.1 Qualified Diver Assessment Standard Part A - Submission of a record of caving and cave diving experience.

2.1.1 The Trainee Diver will keep a Documented Record of their caving and cave diving experience.

2.1.2 The Documented Record will be made available to all Qualified Divers attending the Regional Section meeting at which the Trainee Diver wishes to be considered for Qualified Diver status.

2.1.3 The Documented Record must demonstrate the Trainee Diver's experience of caving and cave diving using a range of techniques under a variety of conditions. It is recommended that the Trainee Diver has completed a minimum of twenty cave dives at a variety of sites to include: Caving to a sump, caving beyond/between sumps, vertical access (requiring a rope or ladder) and the use (or simulation) of decompression techniques).

2.1.4 The Trainee Diver must demonstrate awareness of the caving environment both in a physical sense (e.g. cave formation and development) but also in terms of cave conservation and access.

2.2 Qualified Diver Assessment Standard: Part B - Practical Test.

2.2.1 The Practical Test must be carried out at a diving site with good visibility and a clear bottom, with a minimum depth of three metres. A means of restricting the vision of the candidate to simulate zero visibility diving, a free-flowing breathing set and a breathing set with a flooding second stage plus any other items deemed appropriate to be supplied by the examiner.

2.2.2 Full kit as chosen by the candidate for UK cave diving must be worn. Full kit shall include two independent breathing sets containing sufficient gas for the completion of the test (examiner to provide guidance to the candidate) and a buoyancy compensator or dry suit or both.

2.2.3 Demonstrate pre-dive checks and calculate thirds.

2.2.4 Lay a tagged line for fifty metres using a variety of belaying techniques, belay the end and survey "home" whilst demonstrating good buoyancy control and trim, good finning technique and the ability to change between breathing sets.

2.2.5 Lay a branch line of 10M, from the main line using appropriate belay having previously marked the main line with a home tag.

2.2.6 Demonstrate the ability to follow a line when not wearing a mask.

2.2.7 In simulated zero visibility conditions demonstrate the ability to control a failed regulator due to:

A damaged or clogged exhaust port by purging the regulator for each breath.

A free-flowing regulation by turning the cylinder tap on and off for each breath and also to give a controlled slow free flow so as to free both hands.

2.2.8 In simulated zero visibility conditions demonstrate how to deal with a complete failure of a the breathing set being used.

2.2.9 In simulated zero visibility, demonstrate the use of a search reel to regain the main line in the event that it is lost and or broken (examiners discretion).

2.2.10 In simulated zero visibility conditions demonstrate to the examiner's satisfaction the ability to clear a line entanglement.

2.2.11 Reel in the main and branch lines back to "home".

2.3 Qualified Diver Assessment Standard: Part C - Theory Test.

2.3.1 The Trainee Diver will answer a written paper relating to cave diving problems including; navigation, open-water diving problems, physiological problems, elementary first aid, standard and specialised equipment, equipment maintenance, portage, cave rescue procedures, in-water decompression techniques, use of decompression tables and specific decompression problems relating to cave diving.

2.3.2 The Exam Committee will provide the questions and answers for the written paper to Section Examiners. Section Examiners will ensure that the written paper accurately assesses the Trainee Diver's understanding of cave diving.