

# Level 2 Award in Environmental Principles and Best Practice Syllabus

## A Environmental impacts and sustainability

Candidates should understand the primary local and global environmental impacts of their organisation and be able to:

- i Define the term 'environment'.
- ii Define the following terms and then explain the basic causes and consequences of each:
  - resource depletion
  - air, water and land pollution
  - climate change
  - loss of biodiversity
  - statutory nuisance.
- iii Outline the principles of sustainability.
- iv Identify environmental issues in their day-to-day life and understand the concept of personal social responsibility.

## B Understanding environmental aspects

Candidates should understand how their role and organisation link to a range of environmental impacts and be able to:

- i Define the terms 'environmental aspect' and 'environmental impact'.
- ii Identify the environmental aspects and impacts of an organisation, with particular reference to:
  - inputs such as energy, water, goods and raw materials
  - operations such as transportation and purchasing, and the location of the site
  - outputs such as the products and services of the organisation, as well as waste and pollution.
- iii Outline the procedure for conducting a simple monitoring programme.
- iv Explain the business benefits of environmental improvements.

## C Principles of environmental law

Candidates should understand the basic principles and importance of environmental law and be able to:

- i Explain the key principles of environmental law including:
  - integrated pollution prevention and control
  - polluter pays principle
  - producer responsibilities
  - precautionary principle.
- ii Outline the role of international law.
- iii Describe the roles of and differences between the main environmental regulators in the UK.
- iv State the consequences of infringing environmental laws.
- v Outline civil and statutory requirements for air, water and land pollution.
- vi Identify ways to ensure that an organisation complies with environmental laws.

## D Energy use and carbon management

Candidates should understand how human activities contribute to climate change and be able to:

- i Explain the link between energy use, air emissions and the greenhouse effect.
- ii Identify the relative contribution of major greenhouse gases and their sources.
- iii Identify activities in the workplace that contribute to climate change.
- iv Describe the possible impacts of climate change.
- v Outline how sustainable purchasing can lead to environmental and business benefits, e.g. selection of energy efficient equipment.
- vi Identify simple measures for reducing energy consumption at work.
- vii Identify and use equipment and materials that will minimise environmental damage.
- viii Outline the principles of carbon footprinting.
- ix Outline the key legal and voluntary commitments made to tackle climate change.

## **E Resource efficiency and waste minimisation**

Candidates should understand that waste can be a resource and be able to:

- i Explain the principles of renewable and non-renewable resources and life-cycle assessment.
- ii Outline the impact of the consumer in driving environmental change.
- iii Explain the benefits of resource efficiency and waste minimisation to the environment and the organisation.
- iv Identify the most suitable choice of materials and equipment given the nature of the work activity and its potential impact on the environment.
- v Describe the environmental effects of resource inefficiency and a range of waste disposal methods.
- vi Identify the steps of the waste hierarchy in order of environmental preference and give examples.
- vii Define the terms 'waste', 'duty of care' and 'producer responsibility'.
- viii Describe the key types of waste including controlled, packaging, hazardous and WEEE.
- ix Outline the legal requirements for the 'duty of care' with regards to waste.

## **F Water management**

Candidates should understand that, as well as being required for life, water is a renewable resource and has many industrial uses and be able to:

- i Describe the key environmental impacts associated with water abstraction, water use and effluent discharges.
- ii Identify simple measures for reducing water consumption at work.
- iii Outline key water pollution legislation including discharge consents, pollution of controlled water and oil storage requirements.

## **G Pollution prevention and emergency planning**

Candidates should understand that different types of emergencies have different impacts on the environment and be able to:

- i State examples of the different types of emergency situations that might have an impact on the environment.
- ii Define the terms 'source', 'pathway' and 'receptor' in the context of environmental risk management.
- iii Outline the impact of pollution on humans, ecosystems and property.
- iv Describe how prior preparation and provision of training and resources can mitigate effects.
- v Outline the action that should be taken in the event of an incident.
- vi Describe the reporting requirements of pollution incidents to relevant people and organisations.

## **H Environmental management systems**

Candidates should understand the business and environmental benefits of adopting an environmental management system and be able to:

- i State examples of the benefits to an organisation of adopting an environmental management system.
- ii Describe what an environmental management system is and the stages involved in its implementation.
- iii Describe the purpose of an environmental policy.
- iv Describe the elements of a basic environmental action plan for a work area.
- v Outline the requirements for environmental management systems.
- vi Understand the importance of engaging others to develop an integrated and common approach.