



THE BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB

**FIRST CLASS DIVER
EXAMINATION**

EXPEDITION PLANNING

April 2003

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The British Sub-Aqua Club, Telford's Quay, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FL

Expedition Planning

For this module you need to submit a detailed expedition plan to the First Class Diver Chief Examiner. The scenario around which you should construct your plan is given below:

The plan should contain the following:

- You are to organise a 4 day expedition of adventurous diving in any location in the UK (or if you are an overseas candidate, any location in your own country or your normal locality for diving)
- Although not necessary, you are advised to choose the location of the venue at which you intend to attend the practical exam. (This will enable you to be better prepared for that venue).
- The group will consist of 10 - 12 First Class Divers, who have requested a mixture of wrecks, reefs and marine biological diversity in the dives. All divers wish to have access to nitrox and some may wish to dive on rebreathers or trimix (within BSAC guidelines).
- The dive vessel will be a commercial hard boat of your choice that operates from your chosen port.
- You are expected to include all details required for any one of the group to be able to find all your proposed sites. A minimum of three different sites per day is required (although the divers do not have to dive three times a day).
- You are expected to provide all information required diving those sites safely and ensuring that all are involved in the expedition.
- You are expected to provide information on all meeting, accommodation, food etc aspects.
- The report must include true budget costs, contact information and safety information for an expedition. Show a 'per person' cost that you feel is acceptable based on the information you gather.

There may well be elements you consider should be present in an expedition report which are not given above, in which case, please include them. The aim is for you to think about all aspects you would usually consider for an expedition of this nature and then put together a plan, which includes relevant information, you would expect in a genuine expedition plan.

The plan should be no longer than 15 sides of A4 paper, including any appendices. If you wish, it can be submitted in electronic form (WORD or pdf) providing that all illustrations and tables are suitably legible. Please ensure you take a copy for your own reference before sending it to me.

Please send the completed plan to:

Clare Peddie, Albacore House, Kilduncan, St. Andrews, Fife. KY16 8QF.

Or email to

fed.chief@bsac.com

Assessment Criteria

The following marking scheme will be used to assess the Expedition Plan:

Aspect	Criteria
Sensible/achievable programme	Workable; fits into a normal day; sufficient time allowed for each item while remaining challenging; surface intervals maximised; detailed enough to assess the above, showing travel times, times to find site and dive times
Suitable sites selected	Adventurous & challenging for FCDs; caters for the interests of the divers; not run of the mill sites
Site location information	Position; transits; practical hints on how to actually locate the site; potential pitfalls to avoid
Navigational information	Identify waypoints; give courses (magnetic); distances; estimated times of travel; due account taken of tides; practical visual cues to check en route
Dive operations	Decompression arrangements; use of shotlines/SMBs/DSMBs/deco station; procedure for getting divers into and out of the water; problems with diver pick-up; general safety considerations associated with the site - e.g. tides; use of nitrox; safety cover, if applicable
Site information	Sufficient information to allow the divers to plan their dives in advance; depths; tidal considerations; nature of bottom; topography; marine life present; the 'lie' of wrecks and which bits are still intact; wreck type, size & history; which are the best areas to visit on the dive; potential dangers
Task allocation	Description of roles and associated responsibilities e.g. helm, navigator, dive marshal, deck hand; task allocation throughout the weekend to allow fair shares of the work
Safety information	Contact numbers/channels for the emergency services in the area clearly displayed; safety/emergency procedures; safety equipment on board; navigational & shipping hazards; weather & tides
Domestic information	Suitable arrangements made for accommodation, food & parking; maps or directions to accommodation and launch site; clear instructions as to where to be when throughout the weekend; appropriate advice on equipment requirements and gas fills; enough detail to allow members to plan ahead and catch up if missed rendezvous; contact numbers
Budget	Accurate information in sufficient detail so that members know what to expect over the weekend; cover accommodation, boat hire, breakfast, lunch, dinner, parking, gas fills
Foul weather plan	Sites suitable for FCDs in severe weather conditions, while still remaining adventurous and interesting; a huge amount of detail is not required on the sites, but sufficient should be provided to permit planning at short notice if required