

BS-AC FIRST CLASS DIVER - Practical Examination Centres

The practical exams will take place over designated weekends throughout the year. The start time is 21.00 of a Friday evening. Please circle your venues in order of preference. If your application is late there is a likelihood of having to accept 2nd or 3rd choices. Contact the Chief Examiner if you wish to take only one module. Overseas candidates must make special arrangements where a local coaching scheme is not in operation. An overseas examiner or area centre may be set up for you. Please give full details.

PREFERRED VENUE (Mark 1st, 2nd or 3rd in box)

Plymouth, S.W.	5/6 July 2003	
St.David's, W.Wales	*Only if demand	
Weymouth, South	*Only if demand	
Rathlin, N. Ireland	*Only if demand	
Cumbræ, Scotland	Aug30/31 2003	

* The events marked with an asterisk will only be run if sufficient demand exists in those areas. The Weymouth event will act as an overflow for the Plymouth event.

Overseas Venue:

Details of venue

PLEASE NOTE:- The venue you have chosen will only operate if there are sufficient candidates or there is a scheduled NI visit. Please be prepared to accept another venue.

What should accompany this form:

1. **Copy of Valid Advanced Diver Logbook Entry**
2. **Proof of 100 dives**
3. **Current BS-AC Membership**
4. **Current diving fitness certificate**
5. **The exam fee of £80.00 for both Modules 2 and 3 or £40 for a single module**
6. **3 x A5 stamped and addressed envelopes**
7. **Rescue Specialist details**
8. **Diver Cox'n or equivalent**
9. **Chartwork and Position Fixing Course (or equivalent)**
10. **Extended Range Diver Course (or equivalent experience)**

Any deviation must be discussed with the Chief Examiner

Notes for Candidates

Complete this entry form and practical examination centre application and submit them, together with the fee of £80.00* and proof of the pre-requisites not later than 6 weeks prior to the exam. (*A fee of £40 for each module is required if taken separately).

The address for submission of this application form is:

**Central Bookings
British Sub Aqua Club,
Telford's Quay,
Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire,
L65 4FY**

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS FOR THE PRACTICAL EXAMS ONLY

On the following page there is an outline of the First Class practical exam and the list of pre-requisites. You will need to send proof of these pre-requisites when applying for a place on the practical exam. If you are not able to supply all of this proof – you should contact the First Class Diver Chief Examiner.

The Practical Exams

You will be given 2-3 months notice of your practical venue if you have booked on in sufficient time. There are two modules: **Diving Task** (1 day); **Diving, Planning and Organisation** (1 day). Normally, candidates would take both together over a weekend but may take (or retake) them separately. If you wish to take the modules separately, make sure you delete the appropriate section on the top of the attached form.

Diving Task

You will be expected to work with other group members to achieve a complex underwater task based from small boats. The details of the task will be given to you the night before the examination. Following a group planning session at that time, and the overnight duration to complete the preparation, you will have an 8 hour slot for the group to complete the desired task. During this time, you will be examined on

Personal Diving and task related skills, Dive leading – underwater, Dive leading – on surface, brief, debrief and dive plan, Achievement of personal task, Contribution to leadership of overall task, Teamwork, Contribution to task planning session, Contribution to Task report, Flexibility and Adaptability in leadership, Safe, effective, dive marshalling, Boat handling and seamanship skills, Position fixing skills and navigation.

The task will be based in depths of 20-25m and will involve the use of ropes, buoys, weights and measuring tapes. You should liaise with other candidates to bring suitable equipment. Should it be necessary, you will be advised of any specialist equipment required prior to the exam. You will be supplied with small boats which will contain basic safety equipment but you should provide any further equipment than that.

Diving, Planning and Organisation

You will be expected to work with other group members to conduct adventurous expeditionary diving from a hardboat. The details of the activities will be given to you the night before the examination but you may also be asked to contribute ideas to the overall objectives of the day's diving. Following a group planning session the evening before, and the overnight duration to complete the preparation, you will have an 8 hour slot within which to conduct your expedition. During this time, you will be examined on

Personal Diving skills, Dive leading – underwater, Dive leading – on surface, brief, debrief and dive plan, Achievement of dive objectives, Contribution to leadership of expedition, Contribution in a support role and teamwork, Contribution to expedition planning session, Personal equipment configuration and knowledge, Personal expedition diving skills, Safe, effective, dive marshalling, Response to emergency, Practical chartwork and navigation skills.

You will be provided with a reasonably well-equipped hardboat but may need to bring with you any ancillary equipment that you might need on such an expedition. You will be encouraged to contact other candidates to share equipment.

Qualifying standards for the Practical Exam

- Provide proof (logbook photocopies) of 100 open water dives since qualifying as an Advanced Diver/Second Class Diver to show a balance of the following:-

Diving beyond 30 metres	Diving in low visibility (less than 2 metres)
Wreck diving	Drop off and Reef diving
Drift diving (more than 1.5 knots)	Large and small boat diving
Decompression diving	Diving with tasks underwater
Expedition diving	Technical diving (within BS-AC guidelines)

Dives that are obviously training dives will be discounted. A diversity of dive site is expected.

- Hold a current BS-AC Medical Certificate of Fitness to Dive. Diving restrictions must be discussed with the Chief Examiner in advance of applying.
- Have attended a BSAC Chartwork and Position Fixing Course (or equivalent)
- Have attended an ERD course (or have equivalent depth experience - at least 20 dives at depths below 30m)
- Be rated as a BS-AC Rescue Specialist.
- Be rated as a Diver Cox'n or equivalent.

Please contact the First Class Diver Chief Examiner if you need to discuss these pre-requisites.