

1. Personal Diving Skills

The BSAC expects First Class Diver candidates to present themselves for examination with a good level of personal diving skills. This element is examined throughout the course of the two days.

PASS	Standard – Levels of competence commensurate with the First Class Diver’s role-model status in all areas of diving Role model diving skills Excellent buoyancy control Appropriate finning technique (awareness of others & silt) Good self-help & rescue skills Appropriate pace with buddy Appropriate equipment configuration Appropriate and clear communication Awareness At ease underwater Attention to the environment Ability to deal with complex tasks Time and gas management Good decompression diving skills Appropriate SMB use Appropriate DSMB use Appropriate distance line use Search/lifting skills
BORDERLINE	Some of the pass areas absent Poor communication
FAIL	Most of the pass areas absent Unsafe diving practices used/suggested No attention to buddy
MERIT	Scored well in most of the pass areas

2. Dive Leading Underwater Day One

As part of each day the candidate is expected to lead an assessed dive. The candidate is expected to dive accordingly and report back to the dive manager once on board the boat.

PASS	Standard - Performed at the level expected of a First Class Diver Stated objectives given Brief full and concise Brief encompassing SEEDS Good dive leadership Attention to buddy Examiner involved Appropriate and clear communication Safe and controlled Appropriate equipment used and prepared Adapted to prevailing conditions Objectives achieved Dive made enjoyable At ease with conditions Pilotage Navigation Good debrief: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess dive• Honesty regarding adaptations (plan changes)• Progression – what next?
BORDERLINE	Failed to achieve in a small number of pass areas Poor techniques used, but not preventing diving
FAIL	Most of pass areas absent Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested No involvement of Examiner Indecisive Unable to navigate
MERIT	Scored well in most of the pass areas Polished performance

3. Dive Leading Underwater Day Two

As part of each day the candidate is expected to lead an assessed dive. The candidate is expected to dive accordingly and report back to the dive manager once on board the boat.

PASS	Standard - Performed at the level expected of a First Class Diver Stated objectives given Brief full and concise Brief encompassing SEEDS Good dive leadership Attention to buddy Examiner involved Appropriate and clear communication Safe and controlled Appropriate equipment used and prepared Adapted to prevailing conditions Objectives achieved Dive made enjoyable At ease with conditions Pilotage Navigation Good debrief: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess dive• Honesty regarding adaptations (plan changes)• Progression – what next?
BORDERLINE	Failed to achieve in a small number of pass areas Poor techniques used, but not preventing diving
FAIL	Most of pass areas absent Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested No involvement of Examiner Indecisive Unable to navigate
MERIT	Scored well in most of the pass areas Polished performance

4. Attitude

The candidate's flexibility and adaptability throughout the two days of the exam is assessed by all the examiners. The standard required is what is expected of a First Class Diver.

PASS	<p>Standard – Positive attitude commensurate with the level of First Class Diver</p> <p>Positive approach to people & tasks "Can do" approach Good level of interpersonal skills Shows awareness of own emotional state, that of others and how these impact on team working Is able to appropriately manage and deal with own and others emotions as would be reasonable in the circumstances which arise. Shows awareness of the pressures on others and is supportive of them. Works well as a team member as well as team leader (and can switch between these roles as required by the task) Helps the team to find solutions to the problems that arise Smiles, even in adversity Enthusiastic Co-operative Open minded Willing to learn and adapt Respect for equality & diversity</p>
BORDERLINE	<p>Occasional or minor lapses in a small number of the pass areas</p>
FAIL	<p>Numerous instances of poor behaviour/attitude to other candidates and/or examiners Aggressive Bad tempered Argumentative Racist Intolerant of gender</p>
MERIT	<p>Scored well in all pass areas throughout the 2 days of the examination</p>

5. Safe Effective Dive Management

As part of the examination spent aboard the boats, the candidate will be assessed in the areas of dive management and the implementation of the diving plan. The candidate is expected to manage actual diving (i.e. be in sole charge of diving) at some point and will be a team member throughout the rest of the examination.

PASS	<p>Standard – Performance suitable to act as a demonstration on any diving event</p> <p>Effective and confident contribution to safe and effective diving, acting as both</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leader• Team member <p>Keeping operation running to programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By management• Intervention as team leader• Contribution as team member <p>Concise, relevant brief and debrief Provides critical information Keeps everyone up dated (inc. skipper and crew) Ensured that dive details were recorded accurately Aware of surroundings and developing situations Effective problem solving and decision-making under pressure Flexible Achieved the objectives</p>
BORDERLINE	<p>Candidate did not achieve some of the pass aspects Poor technique used, but not preventing diving</p>
FAIL	<p>Most of pass areas absent Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested Ineffective management Dogmatic or inflexible Indecisive</p>
MERIT	<p>Scored well in most of the pass areas Confident and competent in managing Excellent communication with all members of the group and coxswain</p>

6. Contribution to Leadership

Throughout the examination the candidate will be assessed in their leadership abilities. The candidate is expected to be an active leader when taking the role as dive manager. The candidate is also expected to take a leadership role at other times as and when the occasion arises.

PASS	<p>Standard – Performed at the level expected of a First Class Diver</p> <p>When leading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective and confident contribution to safe and effective diving• Effective and confident contribution to safe and effective project <p>Appropriate intervention when necessary Provides critical information Effective communication Clear delegation Aware of the “big picture” Effective problem solving and decision-making under pressure Is able to appropriately manage and deal with own and others emotions as would be reasonable in the circumstances which arise Flexible Achieved the objectives</p>
BORDERLINE	<p>Candidate did not achieve some of the pass aspects Low level of communication demonstrated</p>
FAIL	<p>Most of pass areas absent Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested Ineffective management Dogmatic or inflexible Indecisive</p>
MERIT	<p>Scored well in most of the pass areas Confident and competent in managing Excellent communication with all members of the group and coxswain</p>

7. Contribution to Teamwork

Throughout the examination the candidate will be assessed in their teamworking abilities. The candidate is expected to be an active member of their team, and by using their skills contribute to the effectiveness of the team

PASS	<p>Standard – Performed at the level expected of a First Class Diver</p> <p>Effective and confident contribution to safe and effective diving, acting as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team member <p>Keeping operation running to programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By being amenable to being managed• Completing delegated tasks• Report back on completion or failure of designated task• Intervention as team member• Ensuring the safety of all group members <p>Providing critical information</p> <p>Keeping project/dive manager up dated</p> <p>Shows awareness of the pressures on others and is supportive of them</p> <p>Flexible</p> <p>Enthusiastic</p> <p>Co-operative</p> <p>Assists in achieving the objectives</p> <p>Communicates freely with other team members and examiners</p>
BORDERLINE	<p>Candidate did not achieve some of the pass aspects</p> <p>Poor technique used, but not preventing diving</p>
FAIL	<p>Most of pass areas absent</p> <p>Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested</p> <p>Ineffective teamwork</p> <p>Avoidance of “fair share”</p> <p>Absent</p> <p>Dogmatic or inflexible</p> <p>Intolerant</p>
MERIT	<p>Scored well in most of the pass areas</p> <p>Confident and competent in teamworking</p> <p>Excellent communication with all members of the group and coxswain</p>

8. Practical Position Fixing

As part of the examination spent aboard the boats, the candidate will be assessed in the areas of practical position fixing. The candidate is expected to demonstrate their ability to find a given site using all available resources.

PASS Standard - Performed at the level expected of a First Class Diver

Effective use of resources available to fix position

Demonstrate ability to find position by one or more of:

- GPS
- Transits
- Position fixes

Demonstrate chartwork skills by

- Knowledge of charts
- Finding position
- Locating possible dive sites
- Locating launch sites
- Calculating passage plan
- Tidal streams
- Slack water calculation

Demonstrate tidal calculation

- Depth over given site
- Depth graduated to time

BORDERLINE Candidate did not achieve some of the pass aspects
Poor technique used

FAIL Most of pass areas absent
Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested
Inability to fix position

MERIT Scored well in most of the pass areas
Confident and competent in using all resources

9. Response to Surface Emergency

During the two days of the examination each candidate will be required to respond to an emergency, either individually or as an effective member of the group. Each candidate will be required to demonstrate leadership, teamwork and effective casualty management.

PASS Standard – Performed to the level expected of an experienced diver knowledgeable and skilled in rescue techniques.

Use of effective, appropriate, up to date rescue techniques

- Correct technique
- Correct rates applied
- Oxygen administration, if required
- Casualty monitored
- Signs and symptoms recorded
- Coastguard contacted
- Reactive at first then proactive

Effective delegation

Effective rescue management

Effective communications

Appropriate level of urgency

Acting as a team member if appropriate

BORDERLINE Failed to achieve in one or a small number of pass areas

FAIL Failed to achieve in most of the pass areas

MERIT Scored well in all pass areas

10. Achievement of Dive Operation Objectives

As part of the examination the candidate team will be given a project/expedition to complete. This will either be a designated site or a set of adventurous dives. The purpose of the project/expedition will be to collect reliable, reproducible data for subsequent collation, analysis and presentation. The objectives of the dive are to plan and execute a successful project at First Class Diver level.

The candidate team will be observed during their planning phases (typically Friday and Saturday evening). These planning sessions will allow the examining team insight into the teamworking, leadership, roles, responsibilities and priorities dictated by the candidate team.

At the end of the examination the candidate team is given the opportunity to feedback their evaluation and report their project. This should be done as a team and be given one hour to prepare for this reporting session.

The candidate team is also expected to submit a written report to the examination Boss and the First Class Chief Examiner within two weeks after the event. This report may be placed on the BSAC website as a record of the examination's achievements.

If the candidate team, as a whole does not achieve the project/expedition to an appropriate standard, then the individual candidates' marks will be adjusted to reflect this.

PASS Standard - Performed at the level expected of a First Class Diver

Contribution to the planning of the allocated tasks

Project/expedition aims achieved:

- Reliable, useable data collected
- Efficient use of resources
- Working as part of a team

Dive safe and effective:

- Project executed in line with brief and dry run

Honest and accurate evaluation

- Analysis of the results/data collected
- Analysis of what went well and what could have been done better
- How the task could be improved

Reporting/presentation

- Relevant information
- Reasonable depth of knowledge
- Logical
- Complete coverage
- Accurate

Contribution to the team effort

Task should be reproduceable

BORDERLINE	Candidate did not achieve some of the pass areas Poor techniques used, but not preventing diving
FAIL	Failed to achieve in most of the pass areas Inappropriate and inaccurate evaluation No contribution to the team effort Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested
MERIT	Scored well in all pass areas Polished performance Informative and enjoyable

11. Seamanship Skills

Throughout the examination, the candidates will be asked to demonstrate their abilities in a number of practical areas. The subject areas include:

- Coxing
- Crewing
- Weather
- General seamanship
- Knots & ropework

PASS	<p>Standard – Levels of practical ability commensurate with the standard of a First Class Diver, in all areas of diving</p> <p>Ability to safely handle a boat (small inflatable up to hard boat) Demonstrate ability in retrieving other divers and/or Using others more skilled (e.g. hard boat skipper) Tidy up of boat Set up of shot line Set up of decompression station Demonstrable knowledge of buoyage, "rules of the road" etc Demonstrable knowledge of weather and sea state Ability to practically tie different knots and demonstrate their use</p>
BORDERLINE	<p>Failed to achieve the required level in a small number of the pass areas</p>
FAIL	<p>Failed to achieve the required level of knowledge in a most of the pass areas Unsafe procedures adopted or suggested</p>
MERIT	<p>Scored well in all pass areas Displayed a high level of ability Ability backed up with high level of knowledge</p>

12. Diving Knowledge

Throughout the exam, the candidates will be quizzed on key areas of theoretical and practical knowledge. The subject areas include:

- Weather/seamanship/knots & ropework/chartwork & navigation
- Physics/mixed gases/technical diving/equipment/rebreathers
- Physiology/first aid/diving medicine/decompression

It is advisable prior to the examination event that agreed questions are formulated by the examination team. This allows continuity of questioning between candidates and different examiners.

PASS	Standard – Levels of knowledge commensurate with the knowledge standard of a First Class Diver, in all areas of diving Relevant recall of accurate information Up to date Evidence of understanding of subject matter and relevance Answered logically No fabrication Honest Able to direct where information can be found and reporting back to examiners if unable to answer
BORDERLINE	Failed to achieve the required level of knowledge in a small number of the pass areas
FAIL	Failed to achieve the required level of knowledge in a most of the pass areas Incorrect information given Unsafe information given
MERIT	Scored well in all pass areas Displayed a high level of knowledge Knowledge backed up with evidence

