

IRSE Exam Changes

In response to feedback from candidates, the Examiner's Committee have proposed a number of changes to the format of Modules 1 and 3, and these changes have been accepted by the Professional Development Committee for implementation from September 2011.

Module 1

For many years the Institution has been concerned about the relatively poor pass rate for Module 1 (which is compulsory) and various initiatives have been tried in order to provide a more accurate indication of student's abilities. These have included enhanced feedback to candidates who narrowly failed to pass and a change to 3 shorter questions.

From September 2011, the Module 1 paper will require candidates to answer 3 questions from a selection of 10, and the allotted time will be 1 ½ hours (an increase of 30 minutes) bringing this module in line with the other written question papers.

Module 3

The exam committee have drafted blank control tables for the use of candidates which will be available at the exam centres. Candidates may, if they wish, bring pre-prepared blank control table sheets of their preferred format in sufficient quantity for their use. Any candidates using their own sheets must ask the invigilator to inspect and initial all the blank sheets.

Candidates will be required to answer 3 questions from a selection of 11 where one question will consist of producing a control table for a number of signals and points, and another question will be related to, or involve, the production of an aspect sequence chart. All questions will have the same number of marks.

Mark allocation

All modules (except for Module 2) will require the student to answer 3 questions each marked out of 25 (currently the modules vary between 20 and 30) which the examiners hope will assist students in consistently managing their time during the exams.

Reading time

All papers will have a reading/thinking time of 10 minutes (originally introduced to support those with reading difficulties) and no extra allowance will be made in future.

Feedback

The Exam Committee would welcome feedback at the exam review next January from candidates sitting the exam this year on these changes.