

Report

The Annual Report of the RSGB Examination Standards Committee

October 2023

This report covers the operation of the Amateur Radio Examinations during the calendar year 2022. The ESC meeting held on 1 April 2023 at the Civil Service Club in London reviewed the reports from the various officers and sub-groups and considered a number of matters including the Schedule of Terms between the RSGB and Ofcom, under which the RSGB administers the Amateur Radio Examinations, and possible changes to the examination syllabus due the Ofcom review of licence conditions. On the basis of the reports received, it is concluded that as at 31 December 2022, the Amateur Radio Examinations are/were fit for purpose for the issue of UK amateur radio licences.

In 2022 the RSGB Examinations Department (ED) and the Examinations and Syllabus Review Group (ESRG), overseen by the Examinations Standards Committee continued their main task of operating the amateur radio examinations process. The total enrolment on all examinations was 28% lower than in 2021. The RSGB Remotely Invigilated online exams, taken at home, along with distance learning provision by some clubs and organisations, which were introduced during the Covid pandemic years (2020 and 2021), continued to be popular with candidates. However, in 2022 we started to see a recovery in the numbers of candidates taking in-person training courses and examinations in a club setting. Overall, the data for 2022 indicate a return to more typical (pre-pandemic) numbers as people returned to normal work/life activities.

Anthony J Kent, G8PBH

ESC.Chair@RSGB.org.uk

1. Introduction

The role of the RSGB Examination Standards Committee (ESC) is to ensure the examinations system is fit for purpose so that licensed radio amateurs can enjoy their hobby legally and safely, without causing interference to the public, and be good citizens on-air. In addition, that they understand how to get the best out of the hobby at whatever level they choose to operate, and that they have enough knowledge and understanding to progress to higher levels if they wish. The ESC assesses the quality of the examinations and makes sure that it is uniform across the United Kingdom so that everyone reaches the same level of attainment. The ESC also ensures that Full level is broadly aligned with HAREC so that UK amateurs can continue to benefit from reciprocal licensing arrangements.

The annual reports of the Examination Standards Committee are published on the RSGB website, <http://rsgb.org/main/about-us/committees/examination-standards-committee/>. Other relevant documents are also available on this website, including the terms of reference of the Examination Standards Committee and the agreement between Ofcom and the RSGB.

The data and analysis presented in this report covers the examination period 1 January to 31 December 2022.

2. Membership of ESC

The terms of reference and constitution of the committee are set down in the Schedule of Terms between Ofcom and RSGB. The membership of the Examination Standards Committee at the time of writing this report is as follows:

Prof. Tony Kent, G8PBH, Chairman
Paul Chapman, Ofcom
Dr. Donard de Cogan, M0KRK, Examinations & Syllabus Review Group Chairman
Dave Wilson, M0OBW, Examinations Quality Manager & Board Liaison
Nigel Barker, M0HZR, Examinations Standards Manager
Dave Taylor, Wg Cdr Rtd, M0NAV, Air Cadet Organisation
Derek Hughes, G7LFC, Train the Trainers
Steve Thomas, M1ACB, RSGB General Manager, Exam Dept representative
Prof. Hugh Griffiths, G4CNV, University College London
Dr Julian Gannaway, G3YGF
Murray Niman, G6JYB, BAE Systems AI-Labs

3. Assessment of Overall Examination Performance

The committee received reports on the management and performance of the examination processes from the Examinations and Syllabus Review Group (ESRG), the Examination Quality Assurance Manager and Examination Standards Manager (EQAM&ESM), the RSGB Examination Department (ED) and the Air Cadet Organisation (ACO). These reports and any discussions regarding them are summarised in the sections below.

The Examination Standards Committee is satisfied that the Foundation, Intermediate and Full examination syllabuses effective in 2022 were/are suitable for the award of Amateur Radio licences. Further, the examinations are compatible with the CEPT harmonised arrangements set out in Recommendations T/R 61-01 and T/R 61-02. The committee will continue to review the syllabuses and examinations to ensure compatibility with international and national requirements and to respond to developments relevant to the hobby.

4. Review of the Report from RSGB HQ Examination Department (ED)

4.1 The year in retrospect

Total number of exams administered by the RSGB Examinations Department in 2022 decreased by 28.3% compared to the previous year.

Published timescales for providing papers and results were maintained.

4.2 Exam statistics

Overall, there were a total of 1026 fewer candidates across all exam levels in 2022. 607 fewer at Foundation, 216 fewer at Intermediate and 203 fewer at Full level when compared to 2021. The pass rate has only slightly decreased at all levels and a total of 2150 candidates were successful during 2022.

We understand that 76 candidates passed the Air Cadet exam, with 50 requesting a candidate number from the RSGB for Foundation equivalence. This is a substantial increase from the numbers in 2021 which were 57 candidates that passed and 30 requesting a candidate number. These figures are included in the statistics.

Level	2022				2021		2020	
	Candidates vs 2021	Candidates vs 2020	Candidates	Pass Rate	Candidates	Pass Rate	Candidates	Pass Rate
Foundation	-26.35%	-45.05%	1696	86.1%	2303	88.7%	3087	90.5%
Intermediate	-28.80%	-38.47%	534	84.3%	750	85.0%	868	87.4%
Advanced	-35.36%	-1.85%	371	64.4%	574	64.9%	378	68.2%
Total			2601		3627		4333	

Table 1. Numbers of candidates registered for the exams at each level for 2022 compared with previous two years.

Not surprisingly the number of exams sat in 2020 was extraordinarily high whilst we were going through the Covid 19 pandemic and therefore sadly not really sustainable. The numbers have decreased for both 2021 and 2022 with people pursuing other interests and getting back to their normal lives.

Generally, the uptake of exams has dropped through 2022. January remained busy for all levels and there was a spike in May for Intermediate exams.

4.3 Trends

Looking at the number of exam candidates, Figure 1(a), 2022 saw a decrease in the number of candidates compared to 2021 at all levels. The numbers in 2022 are close to, or slightly below what would be expected based on the trend over the years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The drop compared to pre-pandemic years for the Intermediate level could be in part attributed to the Syllabus 2019 changes, and a perceived increase in difficulty, the effect of which is becoming apparent only now that numbers have stabilized post-pandemic..

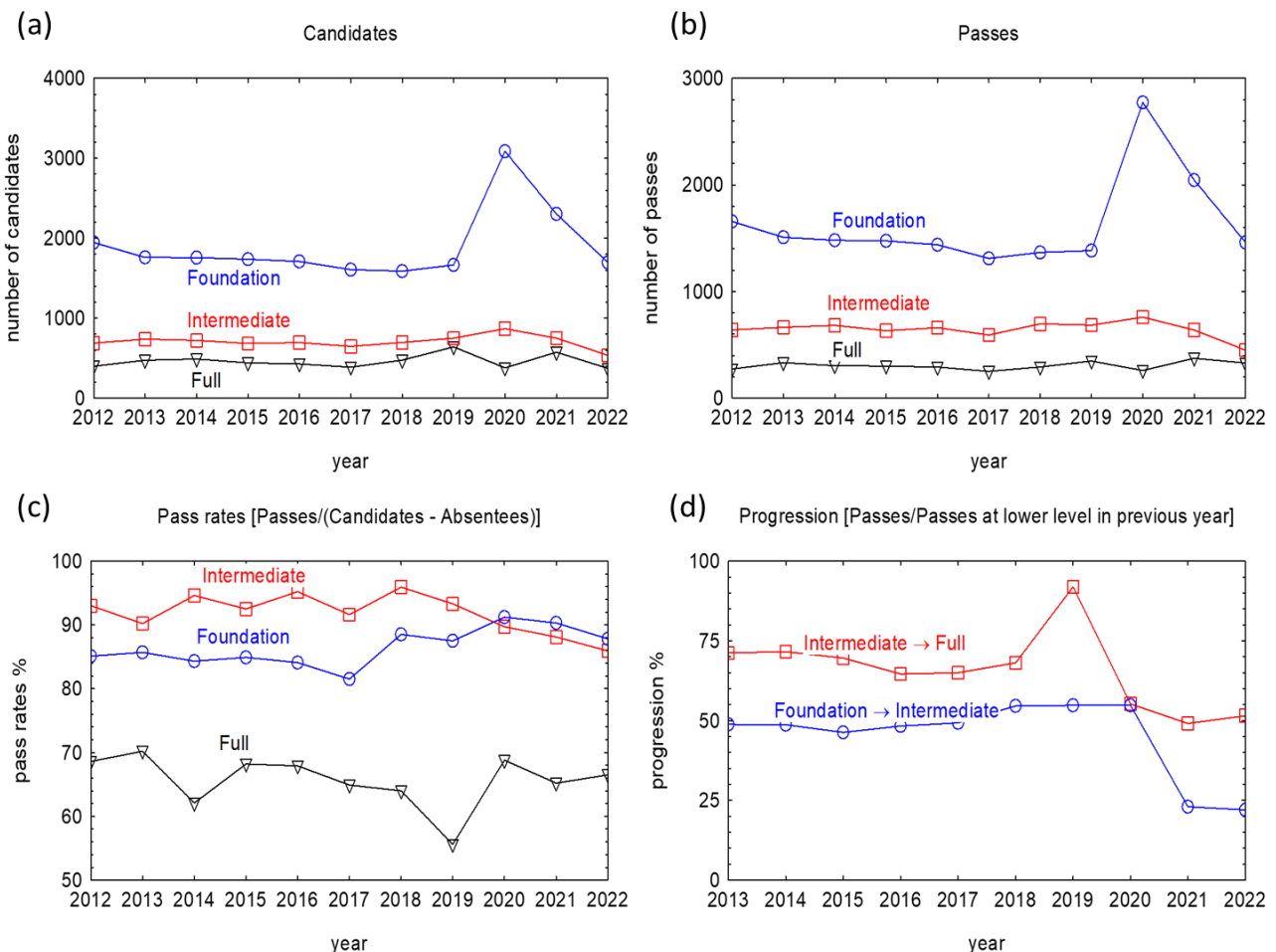


Figure 1. Exam statistics for the years up to and including 2022 (the data presented for 2012 is the average of the 5 years to 2012)

The numbers of passes and pass rates are shown in Figure 1(b) and Figure 1(c), respectively. The data for pass rates excludes candidates that enrolled but did not sit the exam (which explains the small differences with Table 1). Now that the effects of the pandemic years seem to have largely disappeared from the numbers, we can start to see the effects of the 2019 syllabus changes on the

pass rates. For Foundation and Full there is little change, while the pass rate for intermediate is decreased from an average of about 94% pre 2019 to about 86% in 2022.

The progression rates shown in Figure 1(d), are calculated as the ratio of the number of passes at the higher level to the number of passes at the lower level in the previous year (it is understood that some candidates pass both levels in the same year and some take a lot longer to progress, but it has in the past been difficult to keep track of individual candidates, and the method used still provides a useful indication of progression). The progression figures for 2022 are probably still influenced by the sharp peak in the number of Foundation passes in 2020/21. However, progression to both Intermediate to Full appears to be levelling off at below the historical average, which may be a cause for concern and the possible reasons need to be investigated.

5. Review of the Report from the Examinations and Syllabus Review Group (ESRG) Chair

Throughout 2022, the ESRG met weekly for 90 minutes. The Group also held one face-to-face hybrid meeting in December.

As detailed in last year's report, the ESRG had sought views from experts about the proposed Direct-to-Full (D2F) syllabus and were in the process of incorporating these into revisions when the Group had to react to the EMF directive from Ofcom and revisit all syllabus content at Foundation Intermediate and Full levels. At this stage, D2F was set aside while the ESRG worked up syllabus v1.4 to v1.5 which included the required EMF components. Although there was no substantive change in the content beyond EMF some editorial improvements were also made. At that stage the Group's focus was on the generation of EMF questions at the three levels as well as checking the suitability of any EMF related questions already in the banks. The final stage was to update all associated documents including EX307,8 and 9. It is a great credit to ESRG members that the deadline was met. Syllabus v1.5 is fully up and running since September 2022, and is supported with associated mock questions on the RSGB website.

The ESRG then returned to D2F and mindful of the recommendation from Ofcom (who wanted to see an increased focus on Licensing without diluting it unduly with Operating) the examination was split into two parts. Part one covers Licensing and Operating Part two covers Technical topics. There is a requirement that candidates should pass both parts of the two-and-a-half-hour examination in order to gain an overall pass. This does not present a problem with the TestReach examination system. It should be noted that the D2F examination is only available online. The examination consists a total of 75 questions, 18 in Licensing (12 questions) and Operating (6 questions) with 57 questions for all other technical matters. The pass marks are 77.7% (14 questions) for Licensing and Operating and 63.2% (36 questions) for all other technical topics.

As a first step, the D2F examination bank was created by drawing questions from all three banks. Bearing in mind that as Direct-to-Full it is important to assess candidates over the entire syllabus (Foundation + Intermediate + Full). There are syllabus items that are specified in Foundation and may not be covered again. There are syllabus items which are outlined at one level and revisited in greater breadth/depth at the next level. The intention was that where a syllabus item is covered at two or three levels then the weighting in the picking of questions will favour the higher level. The

process of getting balance right was ongoing through the latter part of 2022 and into 2023, as is the generation of specific D2F questions.

As the ESRG goes through syllabus content they always consider what might be added/deleted in future updates. The work on D2F was particularly valuable in this context and the file containing thoughts on syllabus v2.0 continues to grow. Feedback from the community indicates a sense of exhaustion from various bodies, who having just adjusted to syllabus v1.4 have had to adapt to the requirements of v1.5 and there were requests to delay syllabus v2.0 for a few years. The ESRG has no problem with this, but from the point of view of planning it is never too early to start.

In the previous annual report, there was mention about the need to recruit new members to ESRG. A number of new members joined in 2022, in order of arrival:

- John Hislop - a retired physics teacher and member of the Hilderstone Radio Society
- Lorna Smart- Member of the Norfolk amateur Radio Club and editor of "Computers in Amateur Radio"
- Robin Edminson - Worked with GPO Telephones which eventually morphed into BT/Openreach. Now involved in the Online Amateur Radio Community.
- Andrew Lenton - A communications design engineer for broadcast transmitter sites.

New members bring new ideas and new ways of looking at things. There is a sense that all are committed to the simplification of language in both the syllabus content and the wording of examination questions. They are not reticent about highlighting the deficiencies of our existing systems. Robin has undertaken an exhaustive search of differences between the single tier and three tier documents, which long-established members are now too proof-reader blind to notice. Meanwhile Andrew has undertaken a scan/OCR of all syllabus documents so that in the future the master copies will be in Word, rather than being a mixture of pdf and Access files.

To try and assist with training at local and club level Dave Wilson has established the Learning Team, a group of dedicated people with whom ESRG plan to work closely. The first interaction was at the December 2022 face-to-face meeting at East Midlands airport and since that time members of the Learning Team have had an open invitation to attend ESRG regular meetings.

There have been fewer formal challenges in 2022, although there were several informal queries about questions on the mock papers. Table 2 provides a summary of all challenges that have been received during this reporting year.

	date	ID	level	substance	Decision
1	Mar. 2022	51161	Fou	General complaint about failure to pass	Unanimous view that candidate was not ready yet
2	May 2022	50327	Int	Candidate claimed that one question was confusing	We agreed and removed the question, although the problems arose with the content of the training book. The candidate passed.
3	Jun. 2022	51427	Fou	Candidate with disabilities (eyesight)	We recognise the need for additional training for readers. There had been an indication of ambiguity in a question. We agreed and by removing this question the candidate passed.
4	Nov. 2022	48975	Int	General complaint about failure to pass	Unanimous view that candidate was not ready yet
5	Dec 2022	52440	Fou	Candidate queried two questions	We were agreed that there were errors of interpretation arising from self-tuition

Table 2. Exam challenges in 2022

The status of the examination question banks as for the end of 2022 is shown in Table 3.:

Dec 2021	Foundation	Intermediate	Full
In bank	1245	1314	1106
Minimum	406	715	1148
short	3	42	301

Dec 2022	Foundation	Intermediate	Full
In bank	1247	1350	1248
Minimum	413	715	889
short	8	35	61

Table 3. Status of examination question bank at December 2022 compared with the previous year

Notes:

- The minimum assumes each syllabus item holds just sufficient questions. In reality some are well over the minimum and others are short.
- Some changes in the structure of the bank occurred following the addition of the EMF requirements.
- The drop in the minimum number and consequent shortfall at Full level was partly due to syllabus items being combined and partly to a re-assessment of the number of questions required to satisfy a question on the exam paper which may be from more than one syllabus item. (was 20, now 15)
- During 2022 9 Foundation questions were added to the bank, 32 Intermediate and 38 Full. Many of these were to address the new EMF aspects.
- 20 new questions were vetted for D2F only alongside those copied from existing 3-tier banks ready for use in January 2023.

6 Review of the Report from the Examination Quality Assurance Manager (EQAM) & Examinations Standards Manager (ESM)

6.1 Examination results 2021

Number of candidates – refer also to 2022 Examination Department Report

After the huge increase in candidate numbers during 2020, not unexpectedly, the 2021 and 2022 numbers reduced somewhat, down to a grand total of 2,601 (3,627) in 2022.

Pass Rate – refer also to 2022 Examination Department Report

Overall the pass rates reduced slightly with Foundation dropping some 1.6%, down to 86.1%, Intermediate down by 0.7% to 84.3% and Full dropping by 0.5% to 64.5%.

6.2 Examination breakdown 2021

The 3 charts below show the distributions of the marks achieved by candidates taking the examinations in 2022:

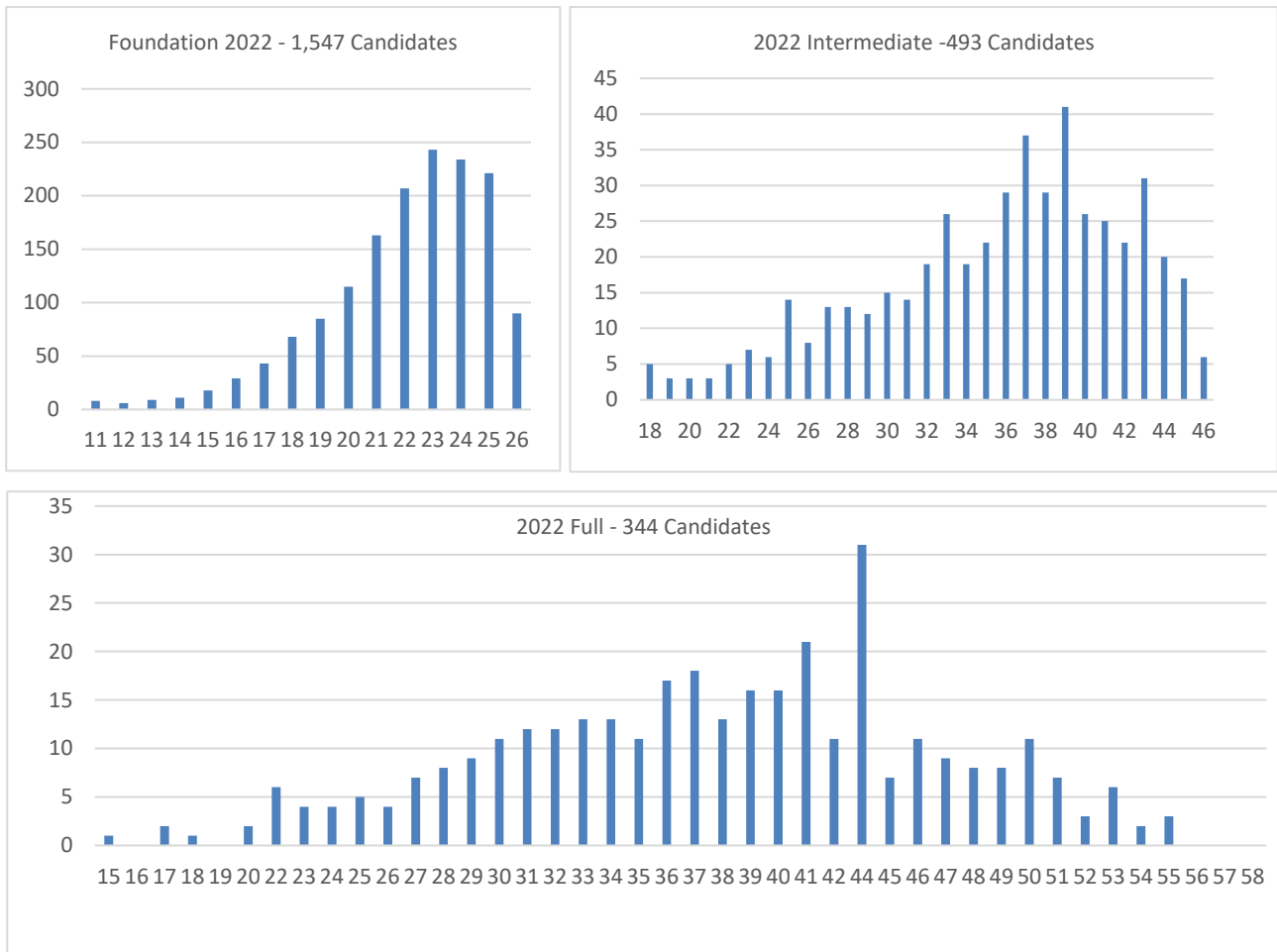


Figure 2. Marks distributions for the three levels

The broad distribution of marks for Full could be indication that some candidates are attempting the exam before they are fully prepared.

The breakdown by region, Table 4, shows a good spread of candidates across the UK.

Table 5 shows the age and gender breakdown of candidates. Highlighted figures: in 2022 the 40 – 59 age range accounted for just over 51% (55% in 2021) of candidates taking the examinations. The number of youngsters taking the examinations, 114, dropped in 2022 compared with 2022 (139). The % female to male candidates remains disappointingly poor at slightly over 5%. Of the 1,647 candidates taking the Foundation exam in 2022 only 101 (102) were female (6.1%), with 15 (13) out of 534 (2.8%) at Intermediate and only 10 (13) out of 371 (2.6%) at Full.

Foundation - Online															
Month	Region														Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Jan-22	4	8	24	23	22	4	5	27	26	9	15	6	2	175	
Feb-22	8	5	16	11	8	2	1	7	16	22	11	15	9	132	
March-22	8	5	16	12	20	6	8	22	39	15	10	9	1	171	
April-22	6	10	14	21	20	2	5	4	16	26	22	16	5	167	
May-22	7	7	16	23	12	1	6	3	13	22	9	17	8	146	
June-22	3	7	7	13	9	3	2	5	19	19	3	6	10	106	
July-22	3	4	12	17	13	1	3	4	11	14	11	24	7	126	
Aug-22	4	7	12	12	12	4	7	6	8	16	11	12	4	116	
Sept-22	3	5	17	16	8	1	2	20	17	9	11	9		118	
Oct-22	4	3	8	12	7	2	6	6	8	23	7	12	6	104	
Nov-22	3	5	14	9	9	2	3	5	12	21	8	16	7	114	
Dec-22	5	3	6	7	9	4	1	5	12	8	10	2		72	
Grand Total	58	69	162	176	149	17	48	56	177	257	123	164	82	9	1547

Foundation - Paper															
Month	Region														Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Jan-22														15	25
Feb-22				4								11		1	18
March-22				6						3			1	1	13
April-22											1			1	6
May-22															1
June-22														4	4
July-22														2	5
Aug-22														1	4
Sept-22	2														2
Oct-22															7
Nov-22															10
Dec-22															5
Grand Total	2	1	10	14	14	1	5	1	11	7	18	10	6		100

Intermediate - Online															
Month	Region														Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Jan-22	4	2	4	1	6	2			11	11	1	5	3	2	52
Feb-22	5	2	8	2	4				10	9	6	4	1	1	52
March-22	2	1	2	5	7		2		3	8	1	2		1	34
April-22	3	2	2		5	1	1	2	8	3	1	4	2		34
May-22	5	4	14	5	6	1	4	2	11	11	14	9	12		98
June-22		2	9	4	4	1	1	1	6	11	1	5	4		49
July-22	4	3	4	2	6				10	1	7				37
Aug-22				1	1	5		3		6	7	2	3	1	30
Sept-22				1	4	3	1		3	3	1	4	3		23
Oct-22	1			1	4	1			1	4	6	5	2	2	28
Nov-22				1	5		2	1	3	3	6	4	3	3	37
Dec-22				2	2	2	2		1	2	5		2	1	19
Grand Total	24	19	53	30	51	5	16	10	70	90	37	50	32	6	493

Intermediate - Paper																
Month	Region														Grand Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
Jan-22																
Feb-22																
March-22														2	2	
April-22	3	1	5												9	
May-22														6	6	
June-22															7	
July-22															4	
Aug-22															3	
Sept-22															1	
Oct-22														1	6	
Nov-22															7	
Dec-22	2														2	
Grand Total	5	1	5											3	14	41

Full - Online															
Month	Region														Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Jan-22	1			5	7	9	2	2	2	7	15	6	5	2	63
Feb-22			2	2	7	7				2	8	2	3	3	39
March-22	2	2	5	5	2		4		4	5	2	1	4	2	38
April-22				5	4			2	1	5	1	1	3	2	25
May-22	1		4	2	2		2			4	2	2	2		21
June-22			1	3	2	4		1	1	2	2	1	4	2	23
July-22	1			1	2	1				5	4	3	1	1	19
Aug-22	2	2	2	2	5	1	1		3	4	1	2	1	1	27
Sept-22				4					1		4	5	1	1	18
Oct-22				2	3	3	2			4	3			6	24
Nov-22				1	4		2			2	2	2	3	3	19
Dec-22	2			2	1	3	1			2	3	5	2	1	28
Grand Total	9	10	39	34	40	5	16	6	41	56	26	33	21	8	344

Full - Paper																
Month	Region														Grand Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
Jan-22																
Feb-22																
March-22																
April-22																
May-22																
June-22																
July-22																
Aug-22																
Sept-22																
Oct-22																
Nov-22	2															
Dec-22																
Grand Total	2															23

Table 4. Candidate numbers by region

2022						
Age	Total		Male		Female	
0-9	0	0.0%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
10-14	53	2.1%	39	1.62%	14	10.14%
15-19	61	2.4%	53	2.20%	8	5.80%
20-29	114	4.5%	92	3.82%	22	15.94%
30-39	194	7.6%	182	7.56%	12	8.70%
40-49	364	14.3%	344	14.28%	20	14.49%
50-59	532	20.9%	513	21.30%	19	13.77%
60-69	772	30.3%	726	30.14%	46	33.33%
70-79	385	15.1%	370	15.36%	15	10.87%
80+	185	7.3%	181	7.51%	4	2.90%
80+	1	0.0%	1	0.04%	0	0.00%
Foundation	2547		2409	94.58%	138	5.42%
Intermediate	534					
Full	371					
1646						

Table 4. Candidate age and gender

6.3 Challenges & Appeals

No challenges were received in respect of the manner in which examinations were run, i.e. using remote invigilation –candidates continue to praise the RSGB for the way they'd made examinations much more accessible. A very small number of candidates had technical issues such as the temporary loss of an internet connection. The vast majority of those were resolved at the time ie the internet connection returned and invigilators were able to resume the examination. As per 2021 where the internet connection didn't re-connect in a timely manner, candidates were offered a free re-sit at a time to suit them.

A small number of “informal” challenges, or queries, were received in respect of examination questions, with no appeals as to the outcome of those challenges.

6.4 Progression

As mentioned in Section 4.3, the traditional method of monitoring progression, while giving an indication is less than ideal. In 2020 monitoring progression by actually tracking candidates was trialled and this was continued in 2021 and 2022.

In 2022 (2021) a total of 110 (293) new Foundation candidates (ie they took their Foundation examination in 2022) sat and passed the Intermediate examination in 2022. This represents approximately 20.6% of candidates taking the Intermediate examination in 2022.

In a similar way, of those 110 a total of 65 (97) new Foundation candidates (ie they took their Foundation examination in 2022) sat and passed both the Intermediate and Full examinations in 2022. This represents some 17.5% of all Full level candidates taking the examination in 2022

A total of 43 (98) Intermediate candidates who took their Intermediate exam in 2022 went on to take the Full examination in 2022 – these had all taken their Foundation examination in 2021 i.e. using remote invigilation.

6.5 Inspections

As part of the remote invigilation process all online examinations are recorded in case of challenges etc with recordings being deleted after 5 working days. In 2022 a team of 27 remote invigilators invigilated approximately 150 examination sessions per month. As per previous years at least 5 recordings per week are reviewed.

6.5 In person club examinations

As more and more clubs started formal meetings and after a slow take up of face to face exams in 2021 face to face exams in traditional club environment remain low in 2022 with the majority being paper based. A total of 51 unique clubs ran 89 exam sessions in 2022. Of those 89 sessions 68 were paper exams and 21 online The breakdown of those exam sessions was as follows :-

100 candidates sat the Foundation exam using paper whilst 23 took the exam online.

41 candidates sat the Intermediate exam using paper whilst 13 took the exam online

23 candidates sat the Full exam using paper whilst 5 took the exam online

7. Review of the Report from the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC)

7.1 General

1. Retirement of Wing Commander David Taylor. Sadly, David has hung his flying suit up for the last time, serving the Air Cadets since the early 80's, ensuring a high standard of Radio Operating has been his entire passion throughout. We wish him all the very best for the future with a note of Sincere Gratitude for his service to Air Cadet Radio. All matters regarding Amateur Foundation Courses will now be overseen by Squadron Leader Adrian Owen.
2. The Royal Air Force Air Cadets is continuing to push forward with the Radio and Cyber Progressive Training Syllabus. The Silver Communicator Level continues with the various modules including, Advanced Radio Operator and the Amateur Foundation Course. Both these modules continue to ensure we produce high quality Operators that practice in full compliance and more importantly, safely, this owing to the technical content of the course.
3. In 2022 we had more dealings with the Army Cadet Force, an increased interest from them. The ACF use our approved training materials and exam processes to ensure Quality Foundation Licence Holders. The statistics below include some of their cadets.

7.2 2022 Examination Statistics

- 14 courses completed.
- 122 cadets enrolled on the course, up 32% from 2021.
- 76 passed with sadly 46 fails, this owing to strict standards being maintained.
- 62.3% pass rate achieved.
- 15 lost places mainly owing to poor weather.

Overall, the average pass mark was 83.57%, as in 2018 Licensing conditions being the prime source of failed questions.

7.3 Inspections & Irregularities

Eight of the courses were run by one of the Regional Officers; another two moderated by Wg Cdr David Pink. Random Practical Assessment Sheets have been inspected with no Irregularities reported.

8. Conclusions

It appears that, following the Covid-19 pandemic, candidate numbers in 2022 have settled back to, or are slightly below their pre-pandemic levels. This put us in a better position to review the impact of the changes introduced with syllabus 2019. We see there has been an 8% reduction in the Intermediate pass rate to 86%, in line with the Foundation pass rate. A reduction of the

Intermediate pass rate was one of the aims of the Syllabus 2019 changes, which appears to have been achieved. This could also explain the apparent reduction in progression from Foundation to Intermediate but not the progression from Intermediate to Full. However, the progression data could still be affected by the spike in Foundation candidates during the pandemic.

Owing to the efforts of RSGB Tutors, RAFAC Trainers, RSGB Remote Invigilators, the RSGB Examinations Department and the Examinations and Syllabus Review Group, 1461 candidates demonstrated that they had achieved the standard for a Foundation licence in 2022. The number of candidates successfully progressing all the way to meet the standards for a Full licence in 2022 was 239.

All the reports that were presented at the April 2023 meeting and summarised in Sections 4 – 7, above, were discussed and accepted by the Examinations Standards Committee. Overall standards were maintained in 2022, and the amateur radio examinations continue to be fit for purpose.

9. Other Matters Considered at the April 2023 ESC Meeting

Although not directly relevant to the performance of the examinations system in 2022, other matters were considered by the Examinations Standards Committee in its 2023 meeting:

1. **Schedule of Terms between Ofcom and the RSGB:** a draft revised and updated schedule of terms was agreed at the meeting. This has been approved and signed by the RSGB and is, at the time of writing this report, with Ofcom for signing.
2. **Licence changes:** Ofcom announced that a consultation will be taking place on proposed new licence conditions, which will likely have an impact on the exams.
3. **Coding in amateur radio:** a proposal to offer coding related topics as an alternative to some of the more traditional technical content in a future syllabus update was considered but no conclusion reached.
4. **Paper exams:** Paper exams will no longer be routinely available when the exams system is migrated from EMAS to the new RSGB admin system, except for candidates who can make a case based on special needs. The criteria for requesting a paper exam are to be decided and will be published. Ofcom require a process is put in place to track the marks of candidates that declare special needs in order to determine if the provisions are sufficient (this would apply to paper and online exams).