

Sample examination questions

Element 1
Short
question

Identify eight fire safety duties placed upon 'responsible persons' under the RRFSSO 2005 (8 marks)

- *Duty to carry out risk assessments*
- *Duty to take general fire precautions*
- *The provision of fire assistance (competent persons)*
- *Provision of fire safety arrangements (planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review).*
- *Provision of information to employees and other persons working on the premises.*
- *Provision of appropriate systems of maintenance*
- *Measures for the elimination of risks for dangerous substances.*
- *Measures for fire fighting and fire detection*
- *Specific requirements for the emergency routes and exits*
- *Provisions for serious and imminent danger, for danger areas and emergency measures relating to dangerous substances.*

Element 1
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question

Outline the key elements of a fire safety management system. (8 marks)

- **Setting policy** – intentions, commitment and approach of the organisation in managing fire safety.
- **Organisation** – roles and responsibilities for fire safety allocated to individuals throughout the organisation
- **Planning, implementation and control** – risk assessment leading to specification of fire safety standards and preventative measures that are to be applied and the measures to be taken to ensure that they are carried out.
- **Monitoring and review** – inspections, tours, incident reports, maintenance and testing, and defect records used to assess the current arrangements.
- **Auditing** – collecting independent information on the efficiency, effectiveness and reliability of the fire safety management system.

Element 1
Short
question

Outline the issues that should be considered before starting an incident investigation following a serious fire. (8 marks)

JUN 07

- *Securing scene of fire*
- *Deciding on who should be in the investigating team (ensure competent persons used).*
- *Isolate services to scene of fire.*
- *Consider things that maybe required to preserve the scene.*
- *Ensure the premises are safe before allowing investigators into the scene of fire.*
- *Liaise between all parties (police, fire service, HSE, insurance investigators)*
- *Identifying witnesses.*

Element 1
Short
question

Outline the reasons for investigating a major fire that has occurred in a workplace. (8 marks)

JUN 08

- *Need to determine cause of fire.*
- *To find whether in future more control measures need to be in place to prevent re-occurrence.*
- *To see if breach of statutory requirements has been made*
- *To gather evidence for future prosecutions*
- *To gather evidence and assess damage for insurance claims.*
- *To determine whether there has been a fault or failure by an individual or organisation.*

Element 1
Short
question

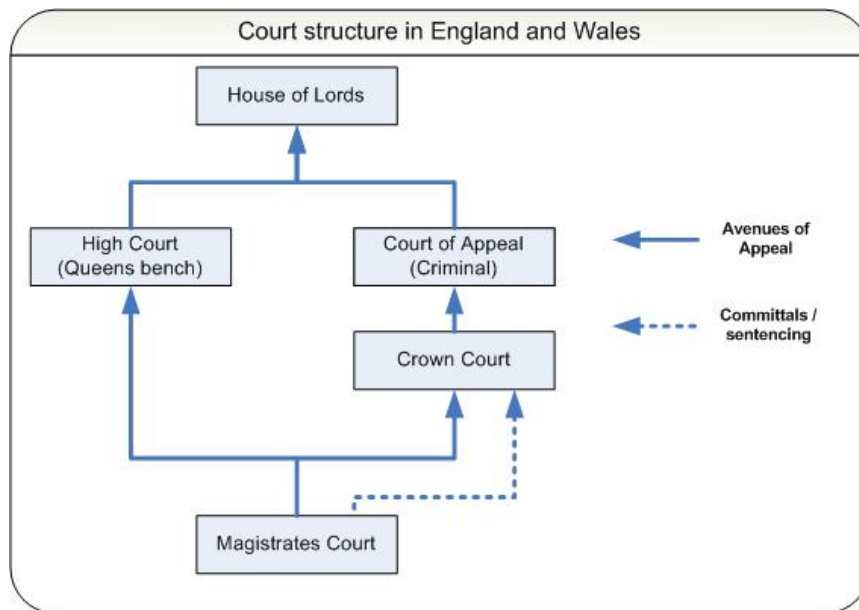
On a routine inspection of a business premises an enforcement officer has identified that the emergency evacuation procedure and the means of escape could pose a significant risk to persons in the event of a fire. Describe the possible enforcement actions that the officer may take under the RRFSO 2005. (8 marks)

DEC 08

- *An alteration order – used where they feel the premises constitute a significant risk if a change is made.*
- *Enforcement notice – used where they feel the premises fail to meet requirements of RRFSO*

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Penalties

Many fines are fixed by the reference to the 'standard scale' which has five levels. The maximum penalties under the RRFSO are as follows:-

- On summary conviction – maximum £20,000.
- On conviction on indictment – the fine is unlimited and up to two years imprisonment, or both.

Roles and Powers of Enforcement authorities

Under the RRFSO there are a number of bodies which are responsible for enforcement these include the following:-

- **Fire & Rescue Authority** – Under the RRFSO they stopped issuing fire certificates and the requirement for ensuring all risks are managed in relation to Fires safety based to the responsible person. However they are still required to enforce the requirements of RRFSO. They have the power to serve alteration, enforcement, prohibitions notices and bring prosecutions.
- **HSE** – Under the RRFSO they are the enforcing authority in relation to construction sites, nuclear installations and ships under construction. They have the power to serve alteration, enforcement, prohibitions notices and bring prosecutions.
- **Local authorities** – Under the RRFSO they are the enforcing authority in relation to fire arrangements in sports grounds. They have the power to serve alteration, enforcement, prohibitions notices and bring prosecutions.

British Standards for Fire Safety

BSI publications provide essential reference guides for specifiers, designers and installers with responsibility for fire safety. The topics covered include the following:-

- Fire detection systems
- Fire extinguishing systems
- Fire protection measures
- Fire risk assessment
- Fire Safety
- Fire safety engineering
- Fire testing
- Design and construction
- Emergency lighting

Key features of a Fire policy

The RRFSO requires the responsible person to put in place arrangements for planning, organisation, control monitoring and review of all procedures relating fire safety. The key elements of this process can be represented as the diagram below:-

