



Postponement of examinations – Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

Fourth Question and Answer (FAQ) document 29th June 2020

All candidates know that The Institute of Tourist Guiding (the Institute) has postponed examinations due to the restrictions placed on all of us by the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

We aim to keep you informed with regular updates about your rescheduled examinations and associated issues. Previous updates were issued on 23rd March, 30th March and 11th May. This update follows the Prime Minister's recent announcements about further changes applicable from 4th July.

The national picture

The Prime Minister made further cautious relaxations of the restrictions that are in place, whilst reiterating that further measures would be introduced if a second spike seemed likely. The main impact of the latest changes is the relaxation of social distancing from 2 metres to 1 metre plus, but with safeguards in place.

The Institute's response

The Institute has carefully considered our response to this change. Through the Chief Examiners we have been working with your Course Directors and examination venues to see how examinations might be able to take place and to identify provisional dates.

Our priority will always be the safety of Candidates and Examiners. Therefore, whilst we are considering how to hold the examinations, the final decisions will always be based on the Government guidance at the time.

Practical examinations

At present, it is still the best option for all candidates to follow the Institute's standard examinations as soon as they are available. We are continuing to work to the timetables below, which now gives more specific dates, although we stress that these remain provisional.

For **all** practical examinations we are working to ensure that venues (cathedral, gallery) and coach companies can accommodate us and facilitate the examinations. We will also follow all national guidelines and the safeguards in place at each venue.

This may include things like clear social distancing rules or the sanitisation of coach microphones. In some cases, we may carry out examinations in smaller groups.

Written examinations

Heart of England resit candidates have already been told that their resits for papers 2 and 3 will take place on 20th July 2020, as originally scheduled. This is possible because we have a large enough venue and there are fewer than six candidates. If you have any questions, please contact your Course Director.

For **all** other written examinations in London, the Heart of England and North East England we are working to ensure that venues will be large enough to maintain social distancing and that there will be no more people in a room than allowable on the date of the examination.

We are also working to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place, for example sanitisation of the examination room or the handling of examination papers.

All examinations

We expect the examinations to take place at the same locations, but you will be notified if this is not possible. Once we can confirm dates, venues, and any changes to procedures we will communicate clear instructions to you. All candidates will receive at least six weeks' notice of the specific date and venue of any examination. Chief Examiners are working with your Course Directors to arrange an additional examination briefing session at an appropriate time.

Your preparation for examinations will remain the responsibility of your Course Directors, and you should continue to refer any questions or comments through them.

We will continue to keep your best interests at heart, in terms of health, safety and, ultimately, to give you the best chance of passing the examinations and achieving the qualification that you are working so hard for.

Revised schedule of examinations

Examination	Proposed dates (subject to confirmation)
<u>London Blue Badge 2019-21</u>	
Practical examination - National Gallery	19 th to 21 st September 2020
Practical examination - walk	25 th to 27 th September 2020
Written paper 1 (Background Knowledge)	20 th October 2020

Written paper 2	17 th November 2020
Written paper 3	1 st February 2021
London Blue Badge 2018-20	
Practical examination resit – Tower of London	6 th October 2020
Practical examination resit – British Museum and St. Paul’s Cathedral	8 th October 2020
Practical examination resit – coach	10 th October 2020
Practical examination resit - Westminster Abbey	12 th October 2020
Written paper 1 (Background Knowledge) resit	20 th October 2020
Written paper 2 resit	17 th November 2020
Written paper 3 resit	1 st February 2021
North East England Blue Badge	
Four practical examinations – museum, walk, cathedral, coach	2 nd to 10 th November 2020
Written paper 1 (Background Knowledge)	20 th October 2020
Written papers modules 2 and 3	22 nd October 2020
Heart of England Blue Badge	
Written paper 1 (Background Knowledge) resit	20 th October 2020
Written papers 2 and 3 resits	20th July 2020 Confirmed
City of London Green Badge	
Two practical examinations – site, walk	September or October 2020 (Dependent on course restarting)
Written paper	September or October 2020 (Dependent on course restarting)

Institute of Tourist Guiding

office@itg.org.uk

29th June 2020