



7th December 2020

Dear Candidates

Examinations and Covid-19 Update

I am writing to you to give an update on your examinations which have been disrupted due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. I know it has been an incredibly frustrating time for you over the last few months with many of your examinations being postponed at least once and sometimes at the very last minute. It is The Institute of Tourist Guiding's intention is to run these examinations as soon as we are safely able to in 2021.

Some of you will already know the dates or approximate date of your examinations while others are still to be confirmed. The Institute will undertake a review on or just before the 3rd of February 2021 to determine when and how examinations next spring will take place. This is the date when the current system of Covid-19 tiers will expire and we hope that by this date there will be more clarity in how the pandemic is progressing.

In August, the Institute issued procedures for how examinations would be run under Covid-19 restrictions. These procedures will also be revisited after the 3rd February 2021 and updated in accordance with the current government rules and guidelines. As stated in August, these guidelines and rules will be specific to both region and individual site. Your Chief Examiner will consider each situation and, in collaboration with your Course Directors, will react accordingly to decide how the examination will be conducted.

The Institute hopes that the public health situation will have improved enough by the spring to allow at least some candidates who deferred their examinations in 2020, as a result of Covid-19, to sit them early next year.

In accordance with the Examination Handbook, candidates will be given at least six weeks' notice before any of their examinations take place.

London Blue Badge candidates will already have the dates or approximate dates of their examinations or resit examinations and these are set out in the revised schedule of examinations below.

If you are a candidate resitting an examination that was conducted under special circumstances as a result of Covid-19, for example using Tour Talk, then your resit examination will also be conducted in the same manner.

North East Blue Badge practical examinations dates are still to be set. At the moment the North East is still under Tier 3 lockdown and the Institute is aware that candidates are not able to visit sites to prepare for their examinations. As a result of this we cannot currently give a firm date for examinations. The dates for the North East examinations will be set soon after the 3rd of February 2021. This means the earliest your examinations can take place will be towards the end of March.

City of London Green Badge candidates are still unable to visit or practise in the Guildhall due its ongoing closure. Your examination will take place at the earliest opportunity having allowed for practice opportunities.

If you have any **concerns or questions**, please continue to **contact your Course Directors** in the first instance. They will be forwarding queries to the Institute on your behalf.

Again, we apologise for the disruption to your examinations, thank you for your understanding over the course of this difficult year and wish you a very happy Christmas.

Sam Loveday, Chair, Examinations Committee

Revised Schedule of Examinations

Examination	Current Scheduled date
<u>London Blue Badge Primary Examinations</u>	
Written Examination – Paper 2	12th January 2021
Written Examination – Paper 3	2nd March 2021
Practical examination - Westminster Abbey	7-21 April 2021
Practical examination – Tower of London	7-21 April 2021
Practical examination – St Paul’s Cathedral	7-21 April 2021
<u>Practical examination – Coach</u>	7-21 April 2021
<u>Practical examination - British Museum (Written Paper)</u>	2 nd March 2021
<u>London Blue Badge Resit Examinations</u>	
Written examination - Paper 2	12th January 2021
Written examination - Paper 3	2nd March 2021
Practical examination - Walk	19 th January 2021
Practical examination - British Museum	11 th February 2021
Practical examination – National Gallery	March 2021
Practical examination - Westminster Abbey	7-21 April 2021

Practical examination – Tower of London	7-21 April 2021
Practical examination – St Paul’s Cathedral	7-21 April 2021
Practical examination – Coach	7-21 April 2021
<u>North East England – Blue Badge</u>	
Practical examination – Newcastle upon Tyne Walk	T.B.C. Decision to be made around 3rd February 2021, exam will be no earlier than 6 weeks after this date.
Practical examination – Durham Cathedral	T.B.C. Decision to be made around 3rd February 2021, exam will be no earlier than 6 weeks after this date.
Practical examination – Great North Museum	T.B.C. Decision to be made around 3rd February 2021, exam will be no earlier than 6 weeks after this date.
Practical examination - Coach	T.B.C. Decision to be made around 3rd February 2021, exam will be no earlier than 6 weeks after this date.
<u>City of London Green Badge</u>	
Practical examination - Guildhall	T.B.C. Exam to take place as soon as possible once the Guildhall reopens.