

MCA Signals Examination

The Signals Preparation – Online course MX1EC443 will prepare you for the MCA Signals Examination, which takes place at Fleetwood Nautical Campus.

Preparation

There are numerous tests within the Signals Preparation – Online course. These all must be completed with a minimum score of 70% before an examination can be arranged. To arrange the examination, contact the examiner Duncan.Taylor@Blackpool.ac.uk to confirm a mutually convenient examination date.

What to expect

On the day of the examination, you will be given a few practice blocks of morse to get you used to the light before the examination commences. The examination should take about 2 hours in total.

Examination Process

1. **Morse Receiving:** 18/20 characters transmitted by the examiner must be recognised in order to pass. Writing the morse symbols is not allowed.
The time limit is 2 minutes.
2. **Code and Decode:** 14/20 marks are required by coding up 2 messages (10 marks possible) and decoding 5 codes (10 marks possible).
The time limit is 10 minutes.
3. **Procedures:** 35/50 marks are required.
This written paper is broken into 2 sections:-
Section A - is predominantly about communicating with flags. How to start, maintain, correct, and end a conversation with flags. It will also contain questions on single and double flag meanings and the use of substitutes.
Section B - is predominantly about communicating with morse by light. How to start, maintain, correct, and end a conversation with morse by light. All the knowledge required can be found in the textbook.
The time limit is 35 minutes.

4. **Morse Transmitting:** 9/10 characters are required to be correctly transmitted from a randomly generated block.
There is no time/speed requirement in their transmission.
5. **Flag Recognition:** 18/20 flags to be correctly identified. A sample of 20 of the 40 possible flags (A-Z,0-9, substitutes and code and answering pennant) will be shown to you and the single flag meaning is to be given as well as the character.

Afterwards

Once successful an MCA Signals Certificate will be issued upon evidence of two forms of photoidentification such as Passport, Discharge Book or Driver's license.

Validity of certificate

3 years, as per [MSN 1856 \(M+F\) – Amendment 1](#). Fleetwood Nautical Campus/Blackpool and The Fylde College is an accredited Maritime Training Centre, and is accredited by the United Kingdom, Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

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