



Barista Skills

Foundation

Written Examination

Trainer Version

Name: _____

Exam Date: _____

Course Trainer: _____

Email Address: _____

Learner Number: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

Please answer all questions.

This is a closed-book exam. No conferring is allowed.

The maximum allowable time for this examination is 30 minutes.
If the exam is given in a language that is not your first language,
an extra 15 minutes is available upon request of the examiner.

Results

Total points earned: ____ / maximum 20 points

Points needed to pass = 12 (60%)

☐ Pass

☐ Fail



1. How would the taste of Arabica typically differ from the taste of Robusta?

- a. Arabica would usually have a more acidic flavor
- b. Arabica would usually have a more bitter flavor
- c. Arabica would usually have a more earthy flavor and heavy body

2. Circle the correct word/phrase to complete the sentences below:

- a. The aim of storing roasted beans is to keep them away from

OXYGEN / CARBON DIOXIDE

- b. Roasted coffee beans are best stored in a place that is

COOL & DRY / WARM & DRY

Each answer worth ½ point.

3. Identify which of the following is NOT a key risk of keeping coffee in a refrigerator?

- a. Moisture
- b. Other strong-smelling foods
- c. Oxygen
- d. Temperature

4. Write TRUE or FALSE besides each of the statements below:

- a. The pump pressure, pushing the water through the coffee, is usually set approximately around 9 bar TRUE
- b. The boiler pressure, providing the steam to the steam wand, is usually set approximately above 1.1 bar TRUE

Each answer worth ½ point.

5. It is important to keep the dose (amount of coffee used to make your espresso) consistent. If you made the mistake of using less coffee than normally used, would ...

- a. the espresso extraction be slower
- b. the espresso extraction be faster
- c. the speed of extraction remains the same

6. What is the main risk of water “channeling” past the coffee in the portafilter/filter handle?

- a. Over extraction of the coffee
- b. Under extraction of the coffee
- c. There is no risk

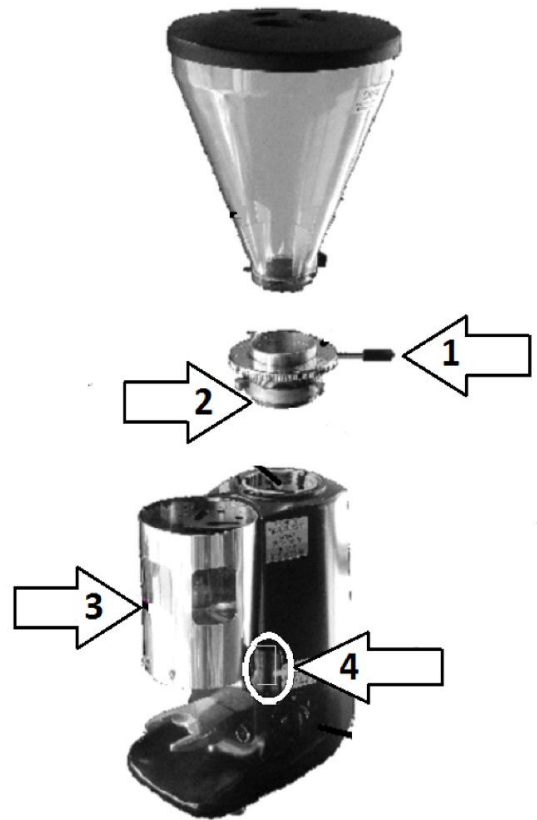
7. Your espresso takes 12 seconds to dispense. In order to produce an espresso that falls within SCA standards, how would you adjust the Grinder?
- a. Make finer
 - b. Make coarser
 - c. Use a lower dose
8. What description best fits “microfoam”, the desired texture of milk for our cappuccino?
- a. Very fine/small bubbles and a moist/shiny texture
 - b. Large bubbles and a firm, matted texture
 - c. Dry matted foam made up of fine/small bubbles
9. What is the maximum temperature milk should be heated to for your drinks?
- a. 50°C (122°F)
 - b. 70°C (158°F)
 - c. 90°C (194°F)
10. When cleaning the steam wand the first step is to...
- a. Purge and wipe the steam wand simultaneously
 - b. Wipe the steam wand and then purge it
 - c. Neither wipe or purge the steam wand after use
11. How would the flavor of your espresso be affected if you did not clean (back flush) your espresso machine on a daily basis?
- a. Sweeter flavors
 - b. It would not affect the flavor
 - c. Dirty/musty flavors
12. Regular cleaning of the grinder hopper helps . . .
- a. To prevent the build up of coffee oils
 - b. To avoid taints in the espresso flavor
 - c. All of the above
13. “Cleaning as you go” (consistently keeping a clean work space) can help prevent which of the following:
- a. Poor image for the customers
 - b. Poor work flow
 - c. Health and Safety risks
 - d. All of the above

14. **Directions:** Look at the diagram below of a commonly used **espresso grinder**. On your answer sheet, write the correct term for the part of the grinder indicated from this list of terms:

- a. Dosing lever
- b. on/off switch
- c. Adjustment collar
- d. Dosing chamber
- e. fork
- f. hopper
- g. Upper burr

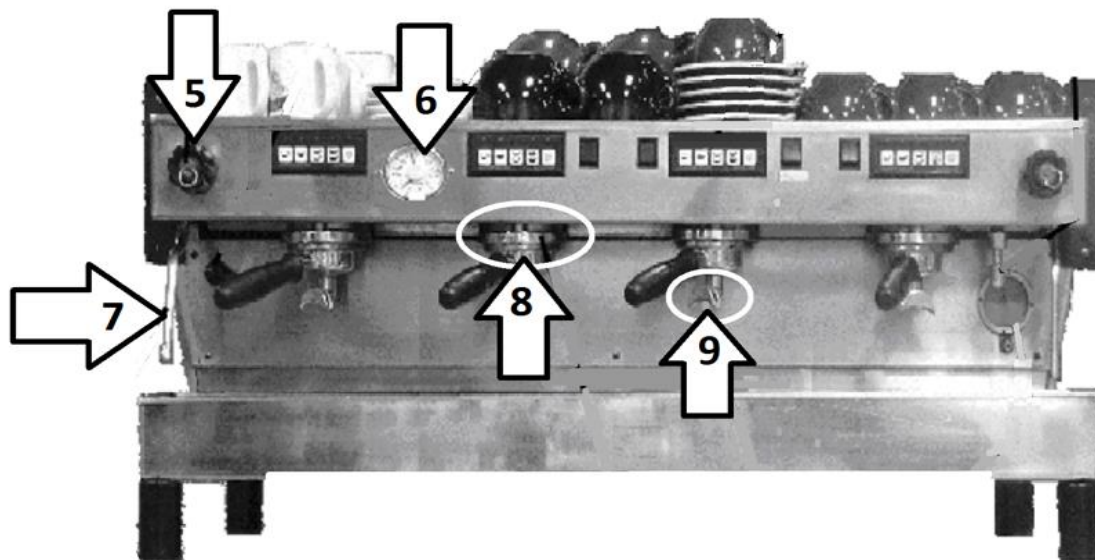
- 1. Adjustment collar
- 2. Upper burr
- 3. Dosing chamber
- 4. Dosing lever

Question is worth 1 point. 3 correct answers receive 1 point; 2 receives ½ points.



15. **Directions:** Look at the diagram below of a **common espresso machine**. On your answer sheet, write the correct term for the part of the machine indicated from this list of terms:

- a. portafilter spouts
- b. gasket
- c. timer
- d. pressure gauge
- e. ristretto button
- f. steamwand
- g. hot water dispenser
- h. grouphead
- i. cup warmer switch
- j. steam knob



- 5. Steam knob
- 6. Pressure gauge
- 7. Steamwand
- 8. Group/grouphead
- 9. Portafilter spouts

Question is worth 1 points.

3 correct answers receives 1 point. 2 receives ½ points.

16. "Espresso" is actually considered which of the following?

- a. A degree of roast
- b. A standard grind particle size
- c. A method of extraction
- d. A specific blend of coffees

17. List the 5 interdependent elements of espresso discussed in the class lecture
Will provide lines for this.

- 1. The bean
- 2. The barista
- 3. The machine
- 4. The grinder
- 5. The water

One point if all are correctly listed.
If three are correct. ½ a point is earned.
Less than 3 correct, 0 points

18. According to SCA, there are four key aspects of customer service. List two of these below:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

Product,
atmosphere,
work environment,
service

Each answer is worth ½ point

19. During class, the roles of the Barista were discussed. Explain two roles below.

Represent the industry and the work of other professionals (farmer, importer, roaster, etc)
Prepare beverages correctly.
Communicate information to customers

One point if all are correctly listed.
If one is correct. ½ a point is earned.
If only 1, 0 points

20. The Specialty Coffee Association has outlined several steps taken in the preparation of espresso. Correctly match the missing steps from the list provided:

1. Remove portafilter from grouphead and flush group
2. _____ **#1** _____
3. Dose and distribute desired grams of coffee
4. Tamp consistently _____ **#2** _____
5. Clean loose grounds from portafilter surfaces
6. Insert portafilter into the grouphead and start the pump immediately, as one continuous motion
7. Observe the flow and _____ **#3** _____
8. Serve or use to make espresso-based drink
9. Remove portafilter and knockout spent grounds
10. Wipe basket clean and _____ **#4** _____ (rinse optional)
11. Return portafilter to grouphead to keep preheated

#1 H. Wipe basket clean and dry

#2 F. Level & ergonomically

#3 C. Stop pump appropriately

#4 B. Flush grouphead

- a. Dry it with a towel
- b. Flush grouphead
- c. Stop pump appropriately
- d. Shot glass
- e. Ensure that you do not spill any coffee over the edges of the basket
- f. Level & ergonomically
- g. Rinse basket
- h. Wipe basket clean and dry

One point if all are correctly listed.

If three are correct. ½ a point is earned.

Less than 3 correct, 0 points

END OF EXAM