

POLAR QUALIFICATION

Lead a Journey in Technical Terrain

2020 Edition



**POLAR
TOURISM**
Guides Association
guiding guiding



DEFINITIONS:

- Scope:** Outlines who the Test is for.
- Element:** Outlines the overall **skill set** to be Tested.
- Range:** The **specific skills** to be examined. An examination **may or may not** include all of the range items. It is at the discretion of the Assessor if the Assessee shows confidence and ease in other range items as to whether they examine them or not.

SCOPE:

Lead a Journey in Technical Terrain is for field staff/guides who are in charge of leading single and multi-day journeys on foot, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing in terrain that may include; snow-free glaciers, outwash plains, beach and sub tidal zones, mountains and passes or on sea-ice. Knowledge of polar camping, weather forecasting, utilizing alpine equipment for safety and simple rope assistance and confidence techniques, and making route choices in potentially hazardous terrain are essential. Journeys may involve snow or ice travel with snow shoes or crampons and ice axes. This PQ **does not** include roped glacier/crevasse travel and is a minimum requirement for longer or multi-day journeys in unknown terrain or untraveled routes.

- Special Notes:*
- i A pre-requisite day is defined as greater than 5 hours in length
 - ii The advanced first aid requirement for this PQ is any wilderness emergency care that is minimum 40 hour program.

PREREQUISITES:

- >30 days leading to the level of the Scope.
- > 80 personal days operating in Scope terrain.
- Current Wilderness First Responder award or equivalent.
- PQ Lead a Hike in Non technical Terrain.
- Advanced Terrestrial Navigation Endorsement.

CROSS CREDIT:

Any internationally recognized qualifications that include these components to the level of the Scope or higher. See Cross Credit Matrices.

ELEMENTS & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

Element 1 – Plan and prepare for a journey.

1.1 Deliver a written plan for a multiday journey that is suitable for polar tourism.

(This is a paper exercise for assessment purposes only. It is aimed at testing planning concepts.)

Range: Aims, objectives and purpose of the trip, estimated distances and times, emergency and alternative routes, risk/hazard identification and management strategies, any consent or access issues, weather information, intentions, communications and emergency procedures.

1.2 Personally prepare for a journey.

Range: Suitable attire for the conditions, spare crucial clothing for self and clients, navigation device or strategy, knowledge of expected conditions on that particular route on that day, sunscreen, radio carried in a suitable manner, first aid kit suitable for the purpose.

1.3 Brief clients on an intended journey.

Range: Introduction, appropriate voice, language and body language, teaching/visual aids, demonstrations, learning moments, evaluation of learning, engaging clients in positive experience which encourages enthusiasm and interest.

1.4 Demonstrate/explain strategies to collect relevant local information.

Range: Real-time weather information for a given area, snow and/or avalanche conditions, crack and crevasse status, tide conditions, wildlife risk or sensitivity issues.

Element 2 – Lead, teach and safely manage a group in a given polar environment at the level of the Scope.

2.1 Effective management of the group.

Range: Pacing, rest stops, disclosure and explanation of potential dangers, route selection with regards to geography and movement around wildlife, keeping the group together; a system for accounting for everyone, establishing rapport, use of a leadership style appropriate to the conditions, group and support and support staff accompanying, situational management of hazards and wildlife encounters.

2.2 Efficient and confident personal movement in a range of different polar terrain.

Range: Sea ice, slippery beach rocks, snow, dry glacial ice, mud, talus, tussock, rocky and broken ground.

2.3 Describe the advantages and limitations of different methods of communication suitable for use on a Scope level journey.

Range: Radio, smartphone, GPS tracker, PLB, SAT phone, intentions form.

2.4 Demonstrate and/or explain safe travel practices in and around polar waterways.

Range: Alpine streams open or snow covered, glacial streams and gutters, outwash plains, undercut ice edges on coastline, sea-ice.

2.5 Demonstrate use of technical equipment.

Range: Rope and slings, improvised harnesses, hand line, belaying without fixed anchors, snow shoes, crampons, ice axe.

2.6 Instruct the use of snow shoes, crampons and ice axe.

Range: Suitable site, skills progression suitable to the clients and terrain.

2.7 Demonstrate knowledge of, and role model, accepted tourism practices.

Range: IAATO/AECO site guidelines, local area rules and laws including access issues and protocols, Leave No Trace.

Element 3 – Rescue and Crisis Management.

3.1 Discuss options and strategies for managing a crisis or rescue in given terrain.

Range: Sea-ice rescue, general strategy for managing a remote crisis.

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| DATE: | REVIEWERS: |
| 2016 | Prepared by Graham Charles |
| 3/12/2016 | Graham Charles <i>et al.</i> |
| 16/10/2016 | Graham Charles <i>et al.</i> |
| 1/4/2017 | Graham Charles, Phil Wickens |
| 8/5/2017 | PTGA Board |
| 10/10/2017 | GC, EB, KR input for final prior to posting |
| 14/5/2018 | Qualifications Review Meeting |
| 20/5/2019 | Qualifications Review Meeting |
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