



STRATA CONTROL PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

General Overview

The Strata Control Practical Examination is the final examination in which candidates will partake for the completion of the SCO Certificate. This examination is administered through SANIRE on behalf of the Minerals Council. Thus registration for the examination is via the SANIRE website, twice per year where candidates must submit the required documents as part of the registration process.

Registered candidates will receive proof of registration from SANIRE. The practical exams will be coordinated and hosted by their respective SANIRE Branches to cater for the needs of all candidates within their branch.

SCO Practical Examination Requirements

Entry requirements to the SCO Practical examination will require candidates to have passed the Strata Control theory examination.

Candidates must have been assessed by their mentor/supervisor who should be a holder of the Rock Mechanics Certificate to ensure their competency prior to the candidate partaking in the practical examination. The mentor/supervisor will then complete the Practical Examination Reference Form for the candidate. This form is not to be older than 6 months and must be a newly signed form for each exam.

Metalliferous, open pit and coal candidates are required to submit the competency matrix and logbook respectively. The massive candidates will be required to submit their respective competency matrix from 2023.

Registration Cost

- The registration process and fees payable will be managed by the SANIRE Council
- R500 for SANIRE member or associate member
- R1200 for non-SANIRE member

Registration Process

1. The candidate must complete the online registration on the SANIRE website <https://www.sanire.co.za/> within the allocated time / before the closing date. No extension of time will be provided.
 - a. Candidates are to ensure that they attach all relevant documentation
 - i. CV
 - ii. Certificates/qualifications
 - iii. Proof of passing the Strata Control Theory Examination
 - iv. Proof of payment
 - v. SCO mentor reference form
 - vi. Relevant logbook or competency matrix
 - b. All documents must be in the required format (Formats allowed: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .ppt, .pptx, .xls, .xlsx, .jpg, .png up to 30MB).
 - c. Banking details are on the registration page.
 - d. Candidates are to ensure that all details are entered correctly and that the correct region / branch is selected. The SANIRE Council or Branch will not be held responsible for incorrect information submitted by the candidate that may result in failure to contact the candidate.
 - e. There are compulsory fields to complete when registering. If any of the fields are not completed (or proof attached), the registration will be unsuccessful.
2. Candidates will be notified of registration within seven working days.
3. If candidates do not receive a registration acceptance, then the registration has not been successful.

4. Applications must be completed with all relevant documentation and within the given timeframe to be completed successfully.
5. Should the candidate have registered with all the complete documentation just before closing of registration and not receive any notification within seven working days, the candidate must contact the SANIRE Administrator immediately with proof of registration to resolve the issue.
6. The SANIRE Council Administrator will keep an updated list of registrations for each Branch which will be provided to the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio holder who will distribute to each Branch Chairman.
7. The SANIRE Council Education Portfolio holder will distribute the candidate list to each Branch Chairman following receiving the registrations from the SANIRE Council Administrator.
8. Candidates will receive further communication by the Branch regarding the SCO Practical Examination arrangements. Should candidates not receive any communication, they are advised to contact the Branch Chairman immediately.

Candidate's Responsibilities

- Successfully register for the examination before the closing date.
- Keep in contact with their SANIRE Branch regarding the examination.
- Be well prepared for the examination.
- Do not be late for the examination. Candidates who are late without a valid reason or who miss the working area (underground/surface) trip will not be allowed to attempt the examination; will forfeit their examination and only be able to attempt the following practical examination.
- Candidates will be required to bring along a laptop (with charger), camera, distomat / tape, clinoruler / compass, scientific calculator, all required PPE, scale ruler; general stationery and any other equipment which might be required for the exam as required by the specific mine (surface or underground).
- Make suitable observations and records of observations for use during the examination.
- Keep up with the group in the mine and not lag behind or get lost.
- Comply with all the mine's procedures.
- Any concerns with regards to the examination must be brought forward to the Branch Chairman within 2 working days of the examination.
- To attempt a maximum of 2 times per year and only one attempt per 6 months (preferably pass 1st time!)
- To attain a mark of at least 80% of the exam to pass.
- **NB: Do not cheat or copy others' work that is not yours. The purpose of the exam is to test the candidates' competency. Any dishonesty or plagiarism will result in failure of the examination and suspension of up to 2 years from future examinations.**

Branch Responsibilities

- The Branch Chairman will call for the examination prior to the date of the exam.
- The Branch Chairman through the SANIRE Administrator is responsible to add the event to the SANIRE website.
- Members of the branch must assist the Branch Chairman with a suitable venue for the examination. Candidates are not allowed to visit the hosting mine/venue once it has been announced.
- Prior to the examination, the Branch Chairman must appoint a Branch Exams Committee who will be responsible to set the examination. The Exams Committee must comprise people with suitable experience for the mining method/commodity and be holders of the COM Rock Mechanics Certificate.
- The Exams Committee may utilise the Youth Development Representative of the Branch to assist with the arrangements.
- The Exams Committee sets the exam in accordance with the syllabus ensuring that the exam is relevant to the syllabus and SCO logbook/competency matrix to check relevance and level of content.
- The examination and complete model answer is to be sent to the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio holder prior to the examination.
- The strata control practical examination must consist of a site visit/investigation and plan reading, but will also test candidates report writing skills, computer literacy and the ability of a candidate to interpret and use basic data. The written portion inclusive of the report, calculations, sections etc; must make up 25 to 50% of the exam with the report accounting for at least 25%.

- The majority of the examination must take place on a formal template. The written portion of the examination will be marked by an examiner appointed by the Branch Chairman and Branch Exams Committee.
- The remaining portion of the exam will comprise an oral question and answer section of which will be marked by a group of examiners (minimum of 2 examiners per candidate/session). All examiners must have suitable experience for the mining method / commodity and be holders of the COM Rock Mechanics Certificate.
- All parts of the examination must be completed on the day of the examination and under examination conditions.
- Candidates must not be examined by examiners of the same company or where a conflict of interest may exist.
- Cases where it is unavoidable that a candidate is examined by an examiner from the same company must be reported with reasons to the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio holder in writing prior to the exams taking place. However, the person cannot be the direct supervisor and / or mentor of the candidate.
- Any concerns raised by examiners or candidates are to be reviewed by the Branch Chairman to ensure fairness.
- The Branch Chairman is to report back to SANIRE Council Education Portfolio Holder of any concerns and outcomes thereof as well as to immediately inform the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio holder of any issues related to the examination.
- The Branch Chairman is to ensure that copies of each candidate's exam scripts are scanned and sent to the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio Holder.
- The written part of the exam is then to be moderated by an external examiner that is external to the setting of the examination. This will be arranged by the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio Holder.
- The external moderator will check for candidates' independence in answering the written section, fairness across all marking of candidates as well as the tallying of marks for both written and oral sections.
- The results are to be released within a period of 30 days.
- Should the paper trail supplied by the Branch to the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio holder be insufficient, the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio holder reserves the right to withhold/cancel results as well as call for a re-examination.

Hosting of a SCO Practical Exam

- The SCO practical exams will be coordinated by SANIRE Branches.
- Rock Engineers and mines are not permitted to host exams without the involvement of the SANIRE Branch and relative exams committee as well as the knowledge of the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio Holder.
- SANIRE Branches may co-host SCO practical examinations if required (especially to cater for various commodities/mining methods that may exist within a SANIRE branch's region).
- Approved costs for the practical examination may be claimed for by the SANIRE Branch Chairman from SANIRE Council.
- Exams will be held a maximum of twice per year.
- Candidates and examiners will not hold SANIRE accountable or responsible for any loss/damage of equipment or injury/death of persons.

Hosting of a Special SCO Practical Examination

- Special SCO Practical Examinations are those exams outside the Republic of South Africa.
- The Special SCO practical examinations will be coordinated by the SANIRE Council Education Committee who will fulfil the duties of the Branch Chairperson as outlined above.
 - A written request detailing the reasons why the candidates cannot attend exams hosted within the republic must be provided to the SANIRE Council.
 - The SANIRE Council will after considering the request and if satisfied with the reasons provided and if a minimum threshold of three candidates is reached grant the permission to host the exams.

- Rock Engineers and mines are not permitted to host exams without the involvement of the SANIRE Council and relative examinations committee as well as the knowledge of the SANIRE Council Education Portfolio Holder.
- Mines may co-host SCO practical examinations (to cater for various commodities/mining methods that may exist within a specific region).
- Examiners for the Special SCO Practical Examination will be appointed by the SANIRE Council Education Committee.
 - Candidates must not be examined by examiners of the same company or a consulting company conducting work at the hosting mine or where a conflict of interest may exist.
 - In the case where the SANIRE Council cannot find Examiners willing to conduct the exams Pro bono and the hosting mine is willing to reimburse examiners, the SANIRE Council will follow open supply chain process in appointing examiners.
- Special SCO Practical Examinations will be held a maximum of twice per year.
- Candidates and examiners will not hold SANIRE accountable or responsible for any loss/damage of equipment or injury/death of persons.

