

Rules for the Master Sommelier Diploma Examination



The demand for candidates taking the Master Sommelier Diploma is continually increasing. Consequently, we have fewer places available for new candidates wishing to attempt the exam due to existing candidates taking places. In addressing this situation, the following rules are being implemented.

- If a candidate fails to achieve a score of 40% in any part of the examination, they will receive a cautionary notice, which will be carried forward to the second year. (*Below 40% indicates a significantly lower level of comprehension since taking the Advanced exam*).
- If a candidate does not pass any part, and with a score of less than 30% in any discipline, the candidate is required to immediately take a study break of a minimum of 2 years. (*This will apply even if the candidate has previously passed parts, and a 2-year break would require them to restart the MS Diploma in entirety.*)
- If, on the second attempt of the examination, the candidate again fails to achieve a pass mark in any part, and scores less than 50% in any discipline, he/she is required to take a study break of a minimum of 2 years in order to further prepare for future examinations. (*This will indicate a candidate has not completed sufficient study since the previous year*).

For example:

- At the first attempt if a candidate passes at least one part he will be invited back for the next year. If from the other two parts one-part scores under 40% they will receive a cautionary warning that on the second attempt they cannot score under 50% in either of the remaining disciplines – failure to do so will result in a 2 years study break.

NB -In individual cases of exceptional circumstances, the decision of the CMS Board may overrule the above.

NB – At no time will % score be revealed to the candidate.

Candidates should aspire to be above Advanced level in theoretical knowledge, practical skills and tasting ability before attempting the MS Diploma.

In an attempt to give candidates a greater understanding of how they fared during the MS Diploma (and Adv) exams, during the feedback session we will provide a Grade of **A-F** for The Theory, Practical and Tasting sections of the exam.

Our examination grading system:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Adv</u>
A	Pass - 75% +	Pass - 60% +
B	74 - 65%	59 - 55%
C	64 - 50%	54 - 40%
D	49 - 41%	Below 40%
E	40 - 31% (warning)	-
F	Below 30% (2 years sit out)	-