

Situational judgement

A free sample of 14 scenes

This is often the first filter, before assessment day. You get a short work problem and four answers. Mark the safest, then the worst.

This is independent practice from RailFocus. It is not an official operator paper, and it is not affiliated with train operators or RSSB. A practice mark is not a pass.

The default

- If you are not authorised, you do not go.
- If something is wrong, you stop and tell the right person.
- If you made an error, you say so.
- Do not pick the heroic option if it skips the boring step that keeps people safe.

How to mark

- Read the scene. Find the risk.
- Mark the most appropriate answer, then the least appropriate.
- Check the answers only after you finish all 14.
- Sit the same kind of work timed on a computer: www.railfocus.co.uk

The 14 scenes

Cover the answers at the back. Mark most, then least.

Scene 1

You are late leaving the depot. A colleague says skip the booked brake test so the train can leave on time.

- A. Skip the test and tick it as done
- B. Do the test, then tell control you will be late
- C. Leave now and do the test at the first station
- D. Ask a cleaner to sign that it was done

Scene 2

A passenger missed their stop and asks you to open a door onto the ballast so they can walk back.

- A. Open one door and tell them to be careful
- B. Keep the doors closed, stay put if you must, and tell the right person
- C. Tell them to climb out of a window
- D. Reverse without authority so they can use the platform

Scene 3

A friend in the cab wants a selfie of the two of you while the train is moving.

- A. Take one quick photo so they stop asking
- B. Let them take it while you watch the road
- C. Refuse and keep your eyes on the line
- D. Stop in section so you can pose properly

Scene 4

You hit something on the line. The train still moves and nobody is waiting at the next station.

- A. Say nothing because the train feels normal
- B. Carry on and mention it at the end of the shift
- C. Stop if you need to, then report the strike as soon as it is safe
- D. Get out in section to look under the train alone

Scene 5

You started a new tablet last night and feel foggy at booking on. The roster is short.

- A. Take the turn and hope it wears off
- B. Say you are not fit and do not take a train
- C. Drink coffee and keep it to yourself
- D. Swap with someone who is not booked on

Scene 6

Someone on the radio tells you to release the other side to speed boarding. You cannot see a platform there.

- A. Release both sides so people get off faster
- B. Release the side you cannot see, on their word
- C. Do not release until that side is a confirmed platform
- D. Open one door a crack and see if anyone steps out

Scene 7

A mate who is not on the sheet offers to take your last trip so you can go home.

- A. Hand them the keys and leave
- B. Let them drive while you stay in the cab
- C. Keep the booked plan, or report that you cannot continue
- D. Split the trip: they take one way, you take the other

Scene 8

After a delay a passenger films you and asks you to say on camera who caused it.

- A. Name a colleague so they leave you alone
- B. Stay professional, do not guess the cause, and report if you need help
- C. Argue with them until they stop filming
- D. Tell them the signaller is always the problem

Scene 9

A supervisor texts you while the train is moving. They want a yes or no about tomorrow's roster.

- A. Reply now so they do not wait
- B. Leave the phone until you are stopped and the train is safe
- C. Ask a passenger to type the reply
- D. Call them back from the cab while you keep one eye on the line

Scene 10

A dispatcher waves you away. The starter is still at red.

- A. Take the wave as authority and go
- B. Creep forward so they can see you are ready
- C. Stay at a stand until the signal is off
- D. Sound the horn and go slowly

Scene 11

A passenger alarm sounds between stations. You cannot see what is wrong from the cab.

- A. Ignore it until the next booked stop
- B. Stop if you need to, speak to the train, and tell the right person
- C. Open a door in section so they can get off
- D. Put the train into emergency and leave the cab alone

Scene 12

The platform was changed at the last minute. You can see a crowd on the opposite side.

- A. Release both sides so nobody is left behind
- B. Open the side with the crowd
- C. Confirm which side is the platform, then release that side only
- D. Let someone on the radio pick a side for you

Scene 13

You are behind time. A colleague says take the speed restriction at line speed because the rail looks dry.

- A. Keep the posted restriction and tell control if you will be late
- B. Ignore the restriction to recover time
- C. Brake later and hope the rail is dry
- D. Ask a passenger if the rail looks wet

Scene 14

At booking on you smell alcohol on a colleague who is about to take a train.

- A. Say nothing because it is not your turn
- B. Joke about it and hope they are fine
- C. Tell the right person before they take a train
- D. Offer to drive their first trip for them

Answers

Most is the safest. Least is usually the one that hides a fault or makes the incident worse.

Scene 1

Most: B. Least: A. A late train is better than an untested one. Ticking a check you did not do is the worst option.

Scene 2

Most: B. Least: A. Doors stay closed unless that side is a safe platform. Opening onto the line makes a second incident.

Scene 3

Most: C. Least: A. The cab is for driving. A photo can wait. Taking it yourself is the worst, because you have stopped watching.

Scene 4

Most: C. Least: A. A strike is a report, even if the train still moves. Silence is the trap. Do not wander under the train on your own.

Scene 5

Most: B. Least: A. If you are not fit, you do not take a train. Covering a gap does not make you safe. Hiding it is worse than being short.

Scene 6

Most: C. Least: A. You only release a side you have proved is a platform. Opening both sides is the worst, because people can step onto the line.

Scene 7

Most: C. Least: A. Only the booked, fit person takes the train. Handing over the keys is the worst, because nobody authorised is in charge.

Scene 8

Most: B. Least: A. You do not settle blame on the platform. Stay calm and keep the train safe. Naming a colleague on camera is the worst.

Scene 9

Most: B. Least: A. The cab is for driving. A roster text can wait. Typing while you move is the worst, because you have stopped watching.

Scene 10

Most: C. Least: A. A wave is not a signal. You wait for the aspect. Going on a wave is the worst, because you have no authority.

Scene 11

Most: B. Least: C. An alarm is a reason to stop and tell someone. Opening a door in section is the worst, because people can step onto the line.

Scene 12

Most: C. Least: A. You only release a side you have proved is a platform. Opening both sides is the worst, because people can step onto the line.

Scene 13

Most: A. Least: B. A restriction is there until it is cancelled. Timekeeping does not lift it. Ignoring it is the worst, because you chose speed over the limit.

Scene 14

Most: C. Least: A. If someone may not be fit, you stop them taking a train. Silence is the trap. Covering their trip yourself does not fix the risk.

What to do next

These 14 are untimed. The real form is often timed. Sit the free aptitude tests on RailFocus, then the longer judgement set when you want a clock.

Timed practice: www.railfocus.co.uk