

Cicerone® Certification Program

International Certified Beer Server Syllabus

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This syllabus outlines the knowledge required of those preparing for the Certified Beer Server exam outside of the United States, Canada, or the UK (these countries have their own unique syllabi—to access, visit [cicerone.org](https://www.cicerone.org)). While this list is comprehensive in its scope of content, further study beyond the syllabus is necessary to fully understand each topic. The content tested on the Certified Beer Server exam is a subset of the information presented within the Master Cicerone® syllabus, and individual syllabi for all four levels of the program may be found on the [cicerone.org](https://www.cicerone.org) website. Topics related to keeping and serving beer in this international syllabus cover practices from across the globe—at the Certified Beer Server level you will not be tested on glass washing or pouring practices from outside of your home country.

Outline

(Full syllabus begins on next page.)

I. Keeping and Serving Beer

- A. Serving alcohol
- B. Beer storage
- C. Draught systems
- D. Beer glassware
- E. Serving bottled beer
- F. Serving draught beer

II. Beer Styles

- A. Understanding beer styles
- B. Style parameters
- C. Beer style knowledge

III. Beer Flavour and Evaluation

- A. Taste and flavour
- B. Identify normal flavours of beer and their source
- C. Off-flavour knowledge

IV. Beer Ingredients and Brewing Processes

- A. Ingredients
- B. Brewing Process Overview

V. Pairing Beer with Food

Full Syllabus

I. Keeping and Serving Beer

- A. Serving alcohol
 1. Alcohol's effects
 - a. Absorption and elimination
 - b. Physical and behavioural indicators
 2. Responsible serving practices
 - a. Provide accurate ABV information to consumers
 - b. Adjust serving size based on ABV
- B. Beer storage
 1. Beer is best consumed fresh
 - a. When beer is released from the brewery, it is ready to drink
 - b. Certain types of beers may age in ways that make them interesting to drink months or years later if properly cellared, but the majority of beer should be consumed fresh
 2. Rotate inventory
 - a. Check date codes regularly
 - i. Meaning of code
 - Some date codes indicate the best-by date
 - In much of the world (including Europe, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and parts of Asia), alcoholic products with less than 10% ABV are required to display a best-by date
 - Some date codes indicate the bottling/packaging date
 - In regions where a best-by date is required, some brands will include a bottling/packaging date in addition to the best-by date
 - ii. Types of codes (order and number of digits may vary)
 - Traditional consumer date codes (e.g., 150612 = 15 June 2012)
 - Julian/ordinal date codes (364-14 = 30 December 2014)
 - Some breweries have their own proprietary date code format
 - b. Ensure that beer is consumed in the order of dating
 - c. Remove out of date products from service inventory
 - d. General freshness guidelines
 - i. Draught beer
 - Non-pasteurised draught beer can remain fresh for about 45–60 days (refrigerated)
 - Pasteurised draught beer can remain fresh for about 90–120 days (refrigerated)
 - When not refrigerated or subjected to other stresses, shelf life decreases significantly
 - ii. Bottled/canned beer
 - If kept refrigerated, can remain fresh for up to 6 months
 - Hoppy styles like IPA are more susceptible to the effects of time, and may show flavour changes in as little as 3 months, even when refrigerated

- When not refrigerated or if subjected to other stresses, may be noticeably off after 3 months
 - Taste aged product against fresh product to determine deterioration
 - e. Train staff to promote and sell all beers offered
 - 3. Store beer properly
 - a. Refrigerated storage is best for all beers at all times
 - i. If beer is not refrigerated, keep inventories small and sell the beer quickly
 - b. Non-refrigerated storage accelerates aging and development of off flavours
 - i. With time, all beers will develop signs of oxidation (diminished hop flavour and aroma; malt shift towards honey, caramel, toffee, etc.; papery and wet cardboard flavours)
 - c. Temperature changes within a reasonable range (e.g., moving beer from cold storage (3 °C/38 °F) to room temperature storage (20–25 °C/68–77 °F) or vice versa) are not inherently damaging to a beer’s flavour, though the beer will remain fresh for longer if stored at cold temperatures at all times
 - d. Beer should not be allowed to reach temperatures in excess of 25 °C (77 °F) as these conditions lead to rapid flavour degradation
 - 4. Protect beer from light
 - a. Skunky flavour (also known as lightstruck flavour) is caused by sunlight, fluorescent light, and most LED lights and is most noticeable in the aroma of the beer
 - b. Skunking may be evident after just a couple minutes of light exposure
 - c. Bottled beers are subject to skunking
 - i. Brown glass blocks most of the wavelengths of light that cause skunking, and therefore offers superior protection to clear and green glass
 - ii. Green glass blocks very little of the light that causes skunking
 - iii. Clear glass offers no protection against skunking
 - d. Cans, ceramic bottles, and bottles in closed case boxes that completely shield beer from light give maximum protection from skunking
 - 5. Serve beer properly
 - a. Draught beer must be served using CO₂ or a CO₂-nitrogen mix at the proper pressure setting
 - b. Compressed air should never be used to pressurise traditional kegs in which the dispense gas comes into contact with the beer
 - i. Single-use kegs with an internal bag holding the beer can be served using compressed air since the gas does not come into contact with the beer
 - c. A party pump (a manually operated pump that attaches to the top of a keg to allow for temporary dispense of beer by pushing air into the keg) limits the flavour stability of the beer to **less than one day** because oxygen is put in contact with the beer
- C. Draught systems
1. Key elements
 - a. Keg
 - b. Coupler
 - c. Foam on Beer detector (FOB)

- i. Three-sink method
 - Prepare the three sinks for glassware cleaning
 - The first sink should be filled with warm water and a non-petroleum based (sudsless) detergent
 - The second sink should contain cool, clean rinse water that is being continually refreshed through use of an overflow tube
 - The third sink should contain hot water and an appropriate sanitiser at the correct concentration as specified by the manufacturer
 - Empty the glass into an open drain
 - Wash glass in the first sink with soap and a brush
 - Rinse glass in cold water in the second sink, heel in, heel out
 - Rinse glass in sanitiser in the third sink, heel in, heel out
 - Dry glass inverted on a rack so air circulates inside
- ii. Two-sink method
 - Prepare the two sinks for glassware cleaning
 - The first sink should be filled with warm water and a non-petroleum based (sudsless) detergent
 - The second sink should contain cool, clean rinse water that is being continually refreshed through use of an overflow tube
 - Empty the glass into an open drain
 - Wash glass in the first sink with soap and a brush
 - Rinse glass in cold water in the second sink, heel in, heel out
 - Dry glass inverted on a rack so air circulates inside
- iii. Spülboy
 - Set up Spülboy with appropriate detergent
 - Empty glass into open drain
 - Clean glass in brush bucket
 - Rinse glass using Spülboy glass rinser
 - Dry glass inverted on rack so air circulates inside
- iv. Glass washing machine
 - Empty the glass into an open drain
 - Place glass upside down on the rack of the washer
 - Run the wash cycle according to the manufacturer's instructions
 - After washing, dry glass inverted on a rack so air circulates inside
 - Glass washing machine considerations
 - Use a machine dedicated to beer glassware ONLY. Do not use this machine to clean dishes or glassware with food or dairy residue (e.g., coffee mugs with cream or milk added, cocktails incorporating egg whites or cream, etc.)
 - Fats from food or dairy will coat other glassware in the washer resulting in dirty glasses and poor head retention
 - Use correct detergent and sanitiser—check concentrations daily or follow detergent and sanitiser supplier recommendations
 - Water temperature should range between 54 and 60 °C (130–140 °F). High-temperature machines designed to operate at 82 °C (180 °F) may

- be used in place of chemical sanitisers (though local health departments may have additional requirements)
 - Maintain washer to assure proper water flow through each nozzle and washer arm
 - Regularly service machine following manufacturer’s guidelines to ensure proper operation
 - Periodically check the interior of the glass washer to be sure that it is free of mould and debris
- c. How to check that glass is beer clean
- i. Without beer
 - Sheeting (wet glass interior and then empty glass; water should sheet off of glass evenly; formation of droplets or webbing indicates that the glass is not beer clean)
 - Salt test (wet glass interior, empty glass and then sprinkle salt throughout; places where salt does **not** adhere are not beer clean)
 - ii. With beer
 - Head size, shape, retention—good head formation and retention are signs of a beer clean glass
 - Bubbles clinging to the sides of the glass (in liquid beer) indicate that the glass is **not** beer clean
 - During consumption, lace will cling to the side of a beer clean glass following each sip
3. Preparation to serve
- a. Glass temperature
 - i. Glasses should not be warm to the touch when filled
 - ii. Room temperature and chilled glasses are acceptable
 - iii. Frozen/frosted glasses are not recommended—they cause foaming, they make beer too cold, and frozen water or sanitiser may be present
 - b. Cold water rinse of glass before filling
 - i. Removes residual sanitiser if present
 - ii. Cools glasses that may be warm from washing
 - iii. Aids ideal head formation and retention
 - iv. Do NOT rinse used glasses with a glass rinser—glass rinsers should only be used with clean glassware
- E. Serving bottled beer
- 1. Prepare for service
 - a. Bottle-conditioned beer should be stored upright prior to service
 - i. Bottle-conditioned beer is carbonated by yeast in the package, and consequently contains some amount of sediment
 - b. If possible, store beer at ideal serving temperature as dictated by style. Otherwise store all beer refrigerated (6 °C/43 °F or less)
 - 2. Examine bottle
 - a. Look for white flakes (snow-like) which can indicate old, unstable beer. Do not serve beer in this condition
 - b. Look for a thin ring of residue at liquid level in the neck of the bottle, which is generally indicative of a bad bottle if present. Do not serve beer in this condition

- c. Check for yeast on the bottom of the bottle
 - i. Retain yeast in bottle unless:
 - Consumer requests yeast to be poured
 - Style (e.g., Weissbier) is often poured with yeast
 - ii. To pour yeast, rouse by swirling, rolling, or inverting
3. Open bottle
 - a. Twist-off crown
 - i. Twist off by hand
 - ii. Napkin may be used to aid grip and protect hand
 - b. Pry-off crown
 - i. Prefer openers with a bar or other lift area at least 0.5 cm (0.25 in) wide to prevent the possibility of breaking the bottle during opening
 - ii. Lift in one motion
 - c. Mushroom cork
 - i. Practice cork safety—keep bottle pointed away from consumer at all times
 - ii. Remove wire cage by untwisting the tab
 - iii. Hold thumb over cork at all times once cage has been removed
 - iv. Grip the cork in one hand (a napkin may be used to aid your grip) and the bottle in the other. Remove cork by twisting the bottle to loosen the cork
 - v. When removing the cork, do so slowly and gently so as not to disturb sediment and make the beer volatile
 - d. Crown plus cork
 - i. Practice cork safety—keep bottle pointed away from consumer at all times
 - ii. Lift crown as described in I.E.3.b
 - iii. Corkscrew will be required after removing crown
 - iv. Place the tip of the corkscrew on the centre of the cork and turn clockwise to drive the corkscrew into the cork
 - v. When removing the cork, do so slowly and gently so as not to disturb sediment and make the beer volatile
 - e. Wax-dipped crown
 - i. Use a paring knife or the blade of a wine key to cut out a small notch of wax directly below the crown to allow a bar key to reach under the crown
 - ii. Use a bar key to pry the crown off of the bottle, being careful to ensure that no flakes of wax fall into the bottle
 - iii. Use a clean bar towel to wipe any wax debris from the lip of the bottle
4. Final bottle check
 - a. Check bottle lip—do not serve beer from bottles with broken or damaged lips
 - b. Also examine bottle lip for rust, dried beer, or yeast that could affect flavour or appearance of the beer
 - c. If the bottle has a cork, retain and present it to the consumer
 - i. In the case of a rare, unusual, or new beer, the crown should be retained to present to the consumer
5. Pouring bottled beer
 - a. Filtered beer
 - i. Beers bottled without yeast or other sediment—the entire contents of the bottle can be poured into the glass

- ii. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle and pour down the side of the glass until the glass is half full
- iii. Gently tilt the glass upright and pour down the middle to create approximately 2.5 cm (1 inch) of foam head on the beer as the pour finishes. German wheat beers and Belgian ales traditionally should have 5–8 cm (2–3 in) of head
- b. Unfiltered beers
 - i. Some beers are packaged unfiltered or with yeast in the bottle. In most cases, yeast and sediment should be retained in the bottle
 - ii. Throughout the pour, be careful not to disturb the sediment
 - iii. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle and pour down the side of the glass until the glass is 2/3 full
 - iv. Gently tilt the glass upright and pour down the middle to create an appropriate amount of foam for the style being served
 - v. While finishing the pour, watch the neck of the bottle and be prepared to stop pouring when the yeast moves toward the top of the bottle
 - vi. When in doubt about whether to include the yeast, ask the consumer their preference
- F. Serving draught beer
 - 1. Pouring a beer
 - a. **Never** put the tap in contact with the glass
 - b. **Do not** allow the tap to become immersed in the beer or foam in the glass
 - c. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle, 2.5 cm (1 inch) below the tap
 - d. Grip the tap handle near the base and pull forward to the fully open position to start the flow of beer
 - i. When a tap is only open partially, beer will pour foamy
 - e. Pour down the side of the glass until the glass is 2/3 full
 - f. While continuing to pour, gently tilt the glass upright and pour down the middle to create an appropriate amount of head on the beer as the pour finishes. German wheat beers and Belgian ales traditionally should have 5–8 cm (2–3 in) of head
 - g. Close the tap as the foam cap reaches the top of the glass to prevent beer waste
 - 2. Pouring a beer and cutting with a beer spatula (common in Belgium and the Netherlands)
 - a. **Never** put the tap in contact with the glass or allow it to become immersed in the beer or foam in the glass
 - b. Fully open the tap and allow a small amount of beer to pour down the drain
 - c. After half a second of beer flow, move the glass into place below the open tap, holding the glass at a 45-degree angle, 2.5 cm (1 inch) below the tap
 - d. Pour down the side of the glass until the glass is half full
 - e. While continuing to pour, gently tilt the glass upright and pour down the middle to create an appropriate amount of head on the beer as the pour finishes
 - f. Close the tap as the foam cap reaches the top of the glass and set the beer on a drip tray away from the tap so that drips from the tap do not fall into the glass
 - g. As the foam is rising out of the glass, cut the foam using a wetted beer spatula held at a 45-degree angle
 - h. Dunk the glass in a sink filled with clean rinse water to remove any beer or foam from the outside of the glass

- i. Place the beer on a coaster in front of the consumer with any branding facing the consumer
3. Pouring nitro beer
 - a. **Never** put the tap in contact with the glass or allow it to become immersed in the beer or foam in the glass
 - b. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle, 2.5 cm (1 inch) below the tap
 - c. Pull the tap handle forward to the fully open position to start the flow of beer
 - d. Pour down the side of the glass until the glass is three-quarters full
 - e. Allow the beer to settle for 1–2 minutes, and then pour down the middle to create an appropriate amount of head on the beer as the pour finishes
4. Changing a keg (same product)
 - a. Kegs dispensed from refrigerated systems must be chilled to draught system operating temperature (generally 3 °C/38 °F) before tapping and serving—the general guideline is for kegs to be in the cold room at least 24 hours before serving
 - b. For many coupler designs¹:
 - i. Grip keg coupler handle, then pull out (some coupler models instead require a button on the underside to be depressed) and raise the handle to the “up” or “off” position to disengage. Turn the coupler a quarter turn (90 degrees) anticlockwise to unseat. Lift off of the keg
 - ii. Seat the coupler on a new keg. Turn clockwise a quarter turn (90 degrees) to lock the coupler in place, then lower the coupler handle to the “down” or “on” position to engage
 - c. For slider-type system couplers²:
 - i. Grip keg coupler handle, then pull out (some coupler varieties instead require a button on the underside to be depressed)) and raise the handle to the “up” or “off” position to disengage. Slide the coupler off of the keg valve
 - ii. Slide the coupler on to the keg valve of a new keg. Lower the coupler handle to the “down” or “on” position to engage
 - d. In systems that use them, the foam on beer detector (FOB) for the keg needs to be reset after a keg change. This is done by venting the FOB mechanism to release foam and gas from the chamber and filling with beer.

II. Beer Styles

A. Understanding beer styles

1. Historical development of beer styles
 - a. First driven by available ingredients, equipment, and water
 - b. Shaped by technology, taxes and regulations, culture, consumer appeal, etc.

B. Style parameters

1. Quantitative parameters of beer character
 - a. Alcohol by volume (ABV)
 - b. International Bitterness Units (IBUs)
 - c. EBC/SRM Colour

¹ The procedure described is used to change kegs with D-, G-, S-, and U-system couplers. Certified Beer Server candidates do not need detailed knowledge of each coupler system but must understand the basic steps to change a keg.

² The procedure described is used to change kegs with A- and M-system couplers.

2. Qualitative parameters of beer character
 - a. Appearance
 - b. Aroma
 - c. Flavour
 - d. Finish/Aftertaste
 - e. Mouthfeel
 - f. Perceived bitterness
- C. Beer style knowledge
 1. Knowledge requirements of the styles listed in this section
 - a. Qualitative knowledge of perceived bitterness using the following descriptors: low, moderate, pronounced, assertive, or highly assertive³
 - b. Qualitative knowledge of colour using the following descriptors: straw, gold, amber, brown, or black
 - c. Qualitative knowledge of alcohol content using the following descriptors⁴: lower, normal, elevated, high, or very high⁵
 - d. Qualitative knowledge of key flavours
 2. Beer styles by region⁶
 - a. Belgium and France
 - i. Lambic beers
 - Gueuze (PB – Low; C – Light gold to gold; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - Fruit Lambic (Kriek, Framboise, etc.) (PB – Low; C – Varies with fruit; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - ii. Flanders ales
 - Flanders Red Ale (PB – Low; C – Red-brown; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - iii. Trappist and abbey ales
 - Belgian Dubbel (PB – Low; C – Light amber to dark amber; ABV – Elevated)
 - Belgian Tripel (PB – Moderate; C – Light gold to gold; ABV – High)
 - iv. Pale Belgian beers
 - Belgian Blond Ale (PB – Low; C – Light gold to gold; ABV – Elevated)
 - Belgian Golden Strong Ale (PB – Moderate; C – Straw to gold; ABV – High to very high)
 - v. Unique beers
 - Saison⁷ (PB – Moderate; C – Light gold to amber; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - Witbier (PB – Low; C – Straw to light gold, made white by haze; ABV – Normal)

³ Test questions will reference IBUs as catalogued by the 2021 BJCP guidelines in addition to perceived bitterness levels as presented in the Certified Beer Server Syllabus

⁴ Alcohol level descriptors correspond to the following ABV ranges: Lower – <4.5%; Normal – 4.5–6.0%; Elevated – 6.1–7.5%; High – 7.6–10.0%; Very high – >10.0%

⁵ Test questions will reference ABV values as catalogued by the 2021 BJCP guidelines in addition to alcohol level descriptors as presented in the Certified Beer Server Syllabus

⁶ Key for style descriptors: PB – Perceived Bitterness; C – Colour; ABV – Alcohol level

⁷ Variations in strength (table, standard, super) and colour (pale, dark) exist – candidates are tested on the standard-strength, pale variety

- b. Britain and Ireland
 - i. England
 - Pale ales
 - Best Bitter (PB – Pronounced; C – Gold to amber; ABV – Lower to normal)
 - Dark ales
 - British Brown Ale (PB – Moderate; C – Amber to brown; ABV – Lower to normal)
 - Sweet Stout (PB – Low to moderate; C – Dark brown to black; ABV – Lower to normal)
 - Oatmeal Stout (PB – Moderate; C – Brown to black; ABV – Lower to normal)
 - ii. Scotland
 - Wee Heavy (PB – Low; C – Amber to brown; ABV – Elevated to high)
 - iii. Ireland
 - Irish Stout (PB – Pronounced; C – Brown to black; ABV – Lower to normal)
- c. Germany, Czech Republic, and Austria
 - i. Lagers
 - Pale
 - German Pils (PB – Pronounced; C – Straw to light gold; ABV – Normal)
 - Munich Helles (PB – Moderate; C – Straw to light gold; ABV – Normal)
 - Czech Premium Pale Lager (PB – Pronounced; C – Straw to Gold; ABV – Lower to normal)
 - Amber or dark
 - Märzen (PB – Moderate; C – Gold to dark amber; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - Bocks
 - Helles Bock (PB – Moderate; C – Gold to light amber; ABV – Elevated)
 - Doppelbock (PB – Low; C – Gold to brown; ABV – Elevated to high)
 - ii. Ales
 - Wheat beers
 - Weissbier (PB – Low; C – Straw to gold; ABV – Normal)
 - Berliner Weisse (PB – Low; C – Straw; ABV – Lower)
 - Gose (PB – Low; C – Straw to light gold; ABV – Lower to normal)
 - Rhine Valley ales
 - Kölsch (PB – Moderate; C – Straw to light gold; ABV – Normal)
- d. United States
 - i. Pale lagers
 - American Light Lager (PB – Low; C – Straw; ABV – Lower)
 - ii. Pale ales
 - American Wheat Beer (PB – Moderate; C – Straw to gold; ABV – Lower to normal)

- American Blonde Ale (PB – Moderate; C – Straw to gold; ABV – Lower to normal)
 - American Pale Ale (PB – Pronounced; C – Light gold to light amber; ABV – Normal)
 - American Amber Ale (PB – Pronounced; C – Light amber to dark amber; ABV – Normal)
- iii. IPAs
- American IPA (PB – Assertive; C – Gold to amber; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - Double IPA (PB – Highly assertive; C – Gold to amber; ABV – High)
 - Hazy IPA (PB – Pronounced; C – Straw to gold, often with significant haze; ABV – Elevated to high)
- iv. Dark ales
- American Brown Ale (PB – Moderate; C – Dark amber to black; ABV – Normal)
 - American Porter (PB – Pronounced; C – Brown to black; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - American Stout (PB – Assertive; C – Dark brown to black; ABV – Normal to elevated)
 - Imperial Stout (PB – Pronounced; C – Dark brown to black; ABV – High to very high)
- v. Strong ales
- American Barleywine (PB – Pronounced; C – Light amber to light brown; ABV – High to very high)
- e. Other regions
- i. International
- International Pale Lager (PB – Moderate; C – Straw to gold; ABV – Normal)
- f. Emerging Styles
- i. Pastry Stout or Dessert Stout
- A dark beer that uses culinary ingredients like marshmallow, vanilla, chocolate, coffee, fruits, nuts, or spices to create a flavour profile that mimics desserts, pastries, or candies
 - (PB – Low to moderate; C – Dark brown to black; ABV – Elevated to very high)
- ii. American-Style Fruited Sour
- A sour beer produced with fruit, fruit extracts, or flavourings that provide harmonious fruit flavour ranging from subtle to intense.
 - Should be free of wood-aged flavours, as well as funky, wild flavours from other yeast and bacteria
 - (PB – Low; C – Varies with fruit; ABV – Varies)
- g. Non-alcoholic (NA Beer) and Alcohol-free beer
- i. Any style can be made NA or Alcohol-free
- There are several methods used to produce NA or Alcohol-free beer
- ii. Regulations vary by country regarding what alcohol level can be considered Non-Alcoholic or Alcohol-free

- h. Gluten-free beer
 - i. Gluten is a protein commonly found in cereal grains including barley and wheat
 - ii. Commonly used gluten-free grains
 - Sorghum
 - Millet
 - Rice
 - Corn
 - Buckwheat
 - Quinoa
 - iii. Any style can be made gluten-free or gluten-reduced
 - iv. Gluten-free vs Gluten-reduced
 - Gluten-free beers are made entirely with gluten-free grains
 - Gluten-reduced
 - Gluten-reduced beers can be made with grains that contain gluten or with a combination of gluten-free and gluten-containing grains
 - a. The beer is then processed to break down or reduce the amount of gluten present
 - b. Local regulations dictate the allowable level of gluten
 - c. In many countries, it must contain less than 20 ppm of gluten

III. Beer Flavour and Evaluation

A. Taste and flavour

- 1. How we perceive flavour
 - a. Aroma
 - b. Taste
 - i. Established
 - Sweet
 - Salty
 - Sour
 - Bitter
 - Umami
 - ii. Emerging
 - Fat
 - c. Mouthfeel
 - i. Body
 - ii. Carbonation
- 2. Beer evaluation
 - a. Temperature
 - i. Beer reveals more flavour as its temperature increases and should be served between 3 and 13 °C (38–55 °F) depending upon its style
 - b. Components of evaluation
 - i. Appearance
 - ii. Aroma
 - iii. Taste
 - iv. Mouthfeel

- v. Finish/Aftertaste
- c. Key evaluation techniques
 - i. Aroma techniques
 - Distant Sniff: Swirl beer while holding glass 15–20 cm (6–8 in) away from nose and take one to two short sniffs
 - Drive-by Sniff: Swirl beer; slowly pass glass across your face, underneath your nose; take a few short sniffs as the glass passes by
 - Short Sniff: Swirl beer; bring glass to nose and take one to two short sniffs
 - Long Sniff: Swirl beer; bring glass to nose and take one long sniff
 - Covered Sniff: Cover glass with hand; swirl beer for 3 to 5 seconds; bring glass to nose, remove hand, and sniff
 - ii. Use a consistent background to assess the colour and clarity of the beer
 - iii. Beer should reach all parts of the tongue during tasting
 - iv. Flavour perception continues after swallowing
- B. Identify normal flavours of beer and their source
 - 1. Malt and grain flavours
 - a. Pale beer: Uncooked flour, bread dough
 - b. Golden beer: White bread, wheat bread, water cracker
 - c. Light amber beer: Bread crust, biscuit, graham cracker
 - d. Amber beer: Toast, caramel, pie crust
 - e. Brown beer: Nutty, toffee, chocolate, dark/dried fruit
 - f. Black beer: Roast, burnt, coffee
 - 2. Hop flavours
 - a. Bitterness, flavour, and aroma effects
 - b. Traditional regional hop traits
 - i. American: Piney, citrus, resinous, tropical fruit, catty, onion/garlic
 - ii. English: Earthy, herbal, woody
 - iii. German/Czech: Floral, perfumy, peppery, minty
 - 3. Fermentation flavours
 - a. Ale versus lager flavours (See Ingredients section IV.A.3.a)
 - b. Weizen yeast flavour
 - c. Other yeast and bacteria can contribute to beer flavour
- C. Off-flavour knowledge
 - 1. Oxidation
 - a. Diminished hop flavour and aroma
 - b. Malt shift towards honey, caramel, toffee, etc.
 - c. Papery/wet cardboard
 - d. Waxy/lipstick
 - 2. Lightstruck/skunky
 - 3. Dirty draught lines
 - a. Buttery
 - b. Sour

IV. Beer Ingredients and Brewing Processes

- A. Ingredients
 - 1. Grains

- a. Malt
 - i. Malt is produced by sprouting and drying cereal grains such as barley or wheat
 - ii. Different shades and flavours of malt are produced by variations in kilning
 - b. Unmalted grains such as corn or rice are sometimes used in beermaking
2. Hops
- a. Hop character in beer
 - i. Depending on use, hops can contribute bitterness, flavour, and/or aroma
 - ii. Aroma and flavour vary with variety
 - iii. Dry hopping
 - Process of adding hops after the wort is chilled, typically in the fermenter, conditioning tank or serving vessel
 - The primary goal is to increase hop flavour and aroma, not to add bitterness
 - A brewer may repeat the dry hopping process multiple times for added effect
 - a. Often indicated with terms like Double Dry Hopping (DDH) or Triple Dry Hopping (TDH)
 - b. Basic anatomy of hop plant and cone
 - c. Major growing regions
 - i. Germany
 - ii. Czech Republic
 - iii. Britain
 - iv. United States
 - v. Australia
 - vi. New Zealand
3. Yeast
- a. Taxonomy
 - i. Ale yeast
 - *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
 - Generally produce esters in levels which give fruity flavours to finished beers
 - Some strains possess a certain gene which results in production of phenolic flavours such as clove, nutmeg, white pepper
 - ii. Lager yeast
 - *Saccharomyces pastorianus* also known as *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*
 - Generally do not produce esters or phenols in appreciable quantities, resulting in a focus on malt and hop character
 - b. Other yeast and bacteria can contribute to beer flavour
4. Water
- a. Water makes up 90+% of the weight of beer
 - b. All water contains traces of minerals
 - i. Many are essential to beer production
 - ii. Several have desirable flavour impacts
 - iii. Some have undesirable flavour impacts

- c. Modern brewers adjust water chemistry to fit the requirements of the beer they brew
- B. Brewing Process Overview
 - 1. Milling
 - a. The act of physically crushing or grinding malt and other grains in a mill, producing grist
 - 2. Mashing
 - a. Grist is mixed with hot water
 - b. Enzymes in the malt break down starches into sugars
 - 3. Lautering
 - a. The sweet liquid, called wort, is separated from the spent grains
 - i. Sugars, colour, and flavour compounds are extracted
 - 4. Boiling
 - a. Wort is boiled in the brew kettle
 - i. Hops are added to impart bitterness, flavour, and aroma
 - ii. Wort is sterilized
 - 5. Whirlpool
 - a. Wort is spun to separate hop fragments and solid particles from the hot wort
 - 6. Chilling
 - a. Wort is cooled to fermentation temperature
 - 7. Fermentation
 - a. Yeast is pitched into the cooled wort
 - b. Yeast then consumes sugars, creating:
 - i. Alcohol
 - ii. CO₂
 - iii. Flavour compounds
 - 8. Maturation/Lagering
 - a. Immature beer is rested to promote the removal of undesirable flavours
 - 9. Clarification
 - a. Separation of yeast and other solids from the beer using a variety of methods
 - 10. Carbonation
 - a. CO₂ levels in the beer are adjusted to desired level
 - 11. Packaging
 - a. Cans
 - b. Bottles
 - c. Kegs

V. Pairing Beer with Food

No single model perfectly explains all the dynamics of beer and food pairing. Candidates at this level should understand that beer and food work well together, but do not need to possess knowledge of specific beer and food interactions.