6720-048/548 Level 3 Constructing the Built Environment – Theory Exam (2)

March 2020

Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner. It is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres to use in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document be referred to when preparing to teach and then again when candidates are preparing to sit examinations for City & Guilds Technical qualifications.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance and highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat the **March 2020** examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, incorrect examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

This document provides commentary on the following assessment;
6720-048/548 Level 3 Constructing the Built Environment – Theory Exam (2)

Theory Exam – March 2020

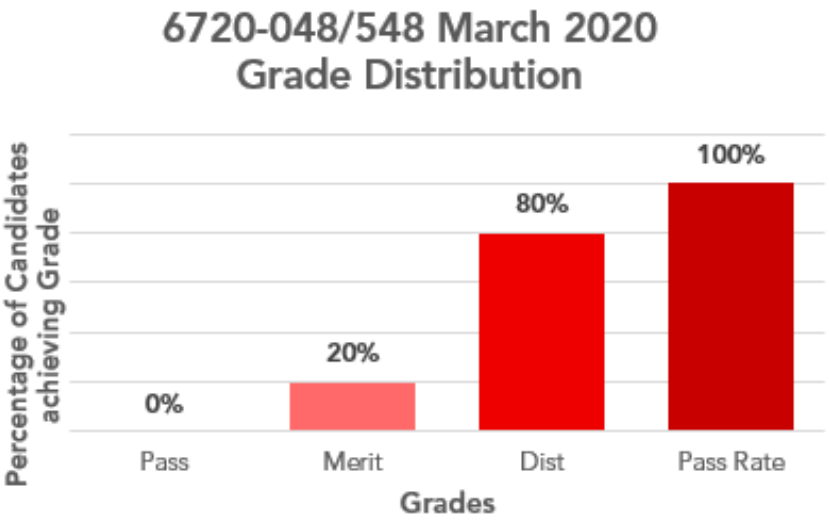
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **6720-048/548**
Series: **March 2020**

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel:

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

The graph below shows the approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 6720-048/548

Series 1 (March 2020)

The candidates' overall performance in the March 2020 paper has improved since last year with a higher percentage of candidates achieving a distinction grade. Candidates scored very well, showing good to excellent levels of technical knowledge and understanding from 'identifying' questions through to extended response 'linked discussion' questions.

Topic areas that were answered well in in this paper were those on maintenance and refurbishment, causes of building damage and repair methods, identifying industry professional bodies, the purpose of property surveys and almost all questions on the building regulations and the associated Approved Documents. High marks were scored in these topic areas, showing breadth and depth in their knowledge and understanding.

Although candidates showed good knowledge and understanding of the building regulations, they struggled on one aspect. When asked to identify measurable technical factors from the building regulations, candidates instead identified broader technical design points.

There were some topic areas where candidates missed the opportunity to gain full marks, by overlooking specific details within the question. For example, many answers on one question missed the key point to discuss the construction phase of building projects and instead focused on planning permission, design detail and other pre-construction aspects. Similarly, for a question on construction project management, answers often discussed planning and design work rather than site project management.

The extended response question asked candidates to discuss the main challenges involved in converting a 20th century building into residential apartments. The majority of candidates were able to relate to this scenario and answered it very well. Higher scoring candidates were able to clearly discuss building survey work, planning, listed building protection and architectural design. They also covered the building regulations, relevant approved documents, structural engineering, building services engineering and construction site management issues well. Centres are to be commended on the answers given by candidates in this discussion style question and should use similar types of building project case studies to aid revision and examination technique.

Centres are encouraged to help students further develop their knowledge and understanding of design, construction and building surveying terminology and processes. Candidates must also understand the importance of reading and dealing with the detail of a question. More broadly, centres are advised to make use of learning opportunities in building design and construction and surveying practice through site visits, videos, reading and class debate or indeed simulated construction project competition.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here: https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/construction/construction/6720-technicals-in-constructing-the-built-environment#tab=documents