

7905-003/503 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Bricklaying – Theory Exam

March 2020

Examiner Report

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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.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment;
7905-003/503 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Bricklaying – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

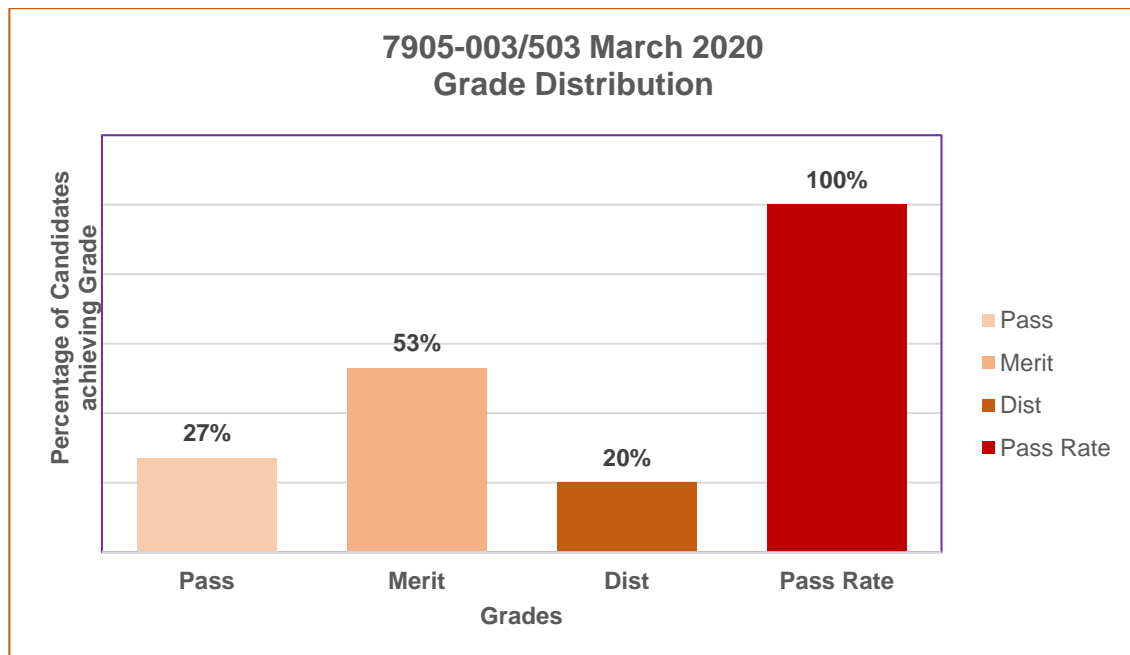
Assessment: **7905-003/503**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

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: 7905-003/503

Series 1 (March)

This component was taken by 15 candidates, a significant decrease from previous March series, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

No candidates sat the paper-based version 7905-503.

This paper covered a range of questions from unit 201 and 202. The paper was structured to test recall of knowledge (AO1), understanding (AO2) and applied knowledge (AO4)

This paper was a multiple-choice based assessment and did not include any extended response question.

The main differences between this and the last two series' exams papers could be traced to the point of a seeming higher confidence level by candidates in answering questions and in selecting the correct answers, thereby highlighting the probability that they have been taught the correct subject matter. It was noted that in compassion to the past papers, the March 2020 paper used a different style of wording for some of the more in-depth AO2/AO4 questions, with some longer distractors. This could have made these questions slightly more challenging for candidates to understand.

Candidates' knowledge requirement appeared strong in the understanding of practical issues, and generally weaker on legislation-based topics.

General recall questions gained a reasonably good level of correct responses across the cohort. Questions on unit 201: Principles of Construction were answered well, with a few of the understanding and application-based questions related to the topic of working drawings, and site security proved challenging to candidates.

Questions on Building Cavity Walls were in general answered well by candidates, especially those related to calculations of areas and the planning of materials. Candidate responses were weaker in the use of temporary frames when forming openings.

Candidates tended to do better on the application questions around the following topics:

- Bricklayers' use of calculating areas.
- Effect of efflorescence when planning to use materials.
- Foundation design and purpose.
- Identifying the different parts of the building regulations.
- Plant selection.
- Levelling brick/block courses.
- Gauging of brick/block courses.

Particular areas of weakness related to the following topics:

- Carpentry principles knowledge and understanding on wall plates, trusses, truss ladders and restraint straps.
- Use of temporary profiles for forming openings.
- Knowledge and understanding of the bearing requirements relating to lintels.
- Knowledge and understanding of continuous cavities.

Centres are encouraged to help and support their candidates with reading materials such as the reference books Bricklaying levels 2 and 3. Centres should also consider using previous papers for revision and practice, which will help to train and understand the level of questions asked.

This paper will always cover the above units and question styles will be similar. Centres and candidates should familiarise themselves with these questions and practice using the past papers provided on the City and Guilds website to gain a better understanding of answering these questions.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals Exam Guides available here <https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/construction/construction/7905-bricklaying>