Level 2 Technical Certificate in Bricklaying (7905-20)

Qualification Report 2023

Contents

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It 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 assessments in the 2023 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments;

- 7905-003/503 Level 2 Bricklaying – Theory Exam
    - March 2023 (Spring)
    - June 2023 (Summer)
- 7905-004 – Level 2 Bricklaying – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The grade distribution for this qualification during the 2022/2023 academic year is shown below.
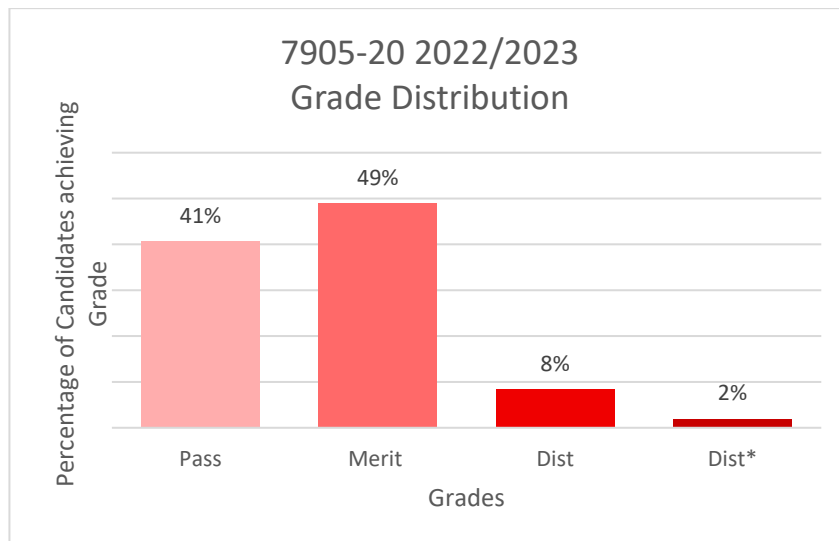
This data is based on the distribution as of 25 August 2023.

Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook.
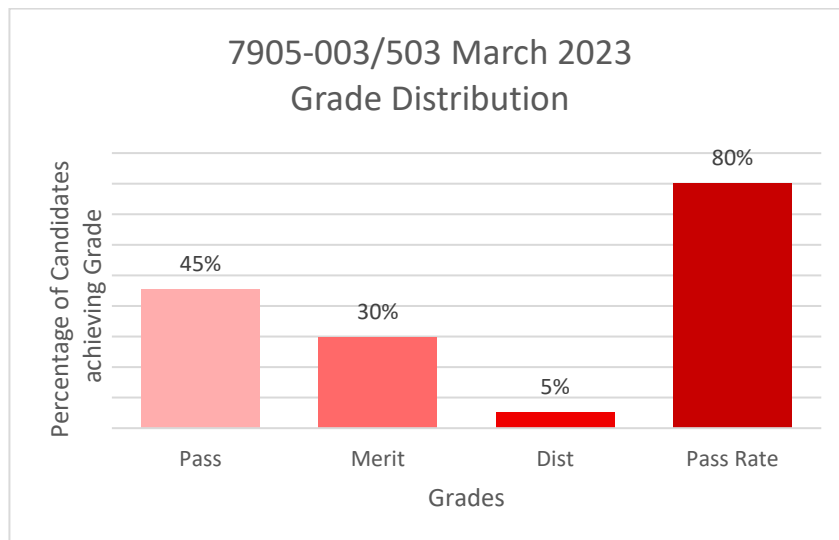
Theory Exam

Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 7905-003/503
Series: March 2023 (Spring)

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:

Assessment: 7905-003/503
Series: June 2023 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment,

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:
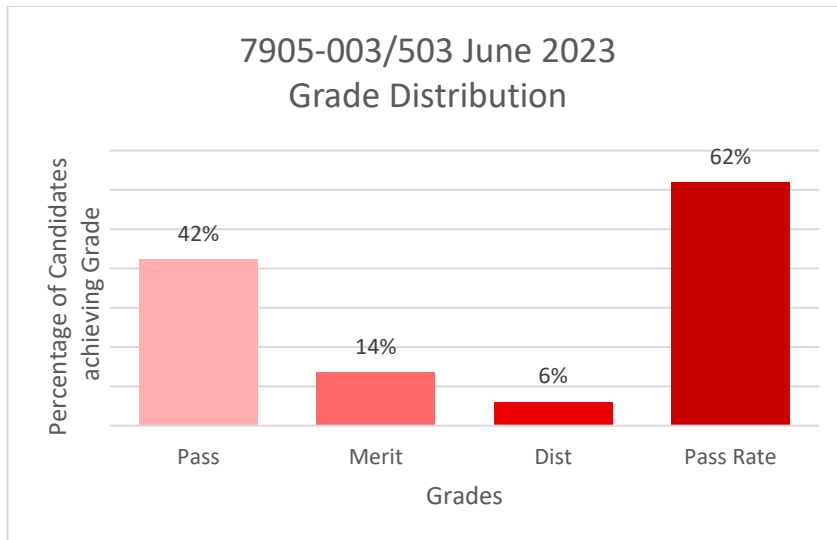
Chief Examiner Commentary

Qualification Title: 7905-003/503 Level 2 Bricklaying -Theory Exam

Series 1 – March 2023 (Spring)

This paper carried 60 marks in total and covered a range of questions from units 201 Principles of construction and 202 Building cavity walls.

The paper was a multiple-choice based assessment. The paper was structured to test recall of knowledge (AO1), understanding (AO2) and applied knowledge (AO4).

The questions within this series paper were of a similar difficulty as with previous papers in terms of complexity.

Unit 201 Principles of construction, most of the AO1, AO2 and AO4 questions were answered well this series. Areas of weakness were seen across a couple of the AO1, AO2 and AO4 questions and these were in the following topic area and assessment objectives.

- AO1, topic 5.5 Building elements.
- AO2, topics 5.1 Walls and 5.2 Floors.
- AO4, topic 2.2 Construction documentation.

Unit 202 Building cavity walls, the questions were well responded to, with most of the questions within this unit performing well. Candidates performed very well within the AO1, AO2 and AO4 questions similar unit 201. Areas of weakness were seen in a few questions, and these were on the following topics and assessment objectives.

- AO1, topic 1.1 Information sources and 3.2 Calculate quantities.
- AO2, topics 2.3 Protect work environment and 4.1 Wall components.

Candidates performed better with questions that related to practical application AO4 type questions except for one area within unit 201 Principles of construction, topic 2.2 Construction documentation, this proved challenging for most candidates.

To improve candidate performance, centres are advised to reinforce the above topics when delivering the underpinning knowledge of these subjects.
Centres should raise candidates' awareness of the structure of past exams by revisiting past papers provided by the awarding bodies and encouraging candidates to read the textbooks available for Level 2 Bricklaying and SmartScreen materials.

Candidates must ensure they fully read the questions carefully before selecting their responses and structure their time appropriately to be able allow sufficient time to read the options and make their selection.

Series 2 – June 2023

This paper carried 60 marks in total and covered a range of questions from units 201 Principles of construction and 202 Building cavity walls.

The paper is a multiple-choice based assessment. The paper was structured to test recall of knowledge (AO1), understanding (AO2) and applied knowledge (AO4).

Unit 201 Principles of construction, most of the AO1, AO2 and AO4 questions were answered well this series. Areas of weakness were seen across some of the AO1, AO2 and AO4 questions and these were in the following topic area and assessment objectives.

- AO1, topic 5.2 Floors and 5.4 Finishes.
- AO2, topics 2.2 Construction documentation and 5.3 Roofs
- AO4, topic 4.1 Substructure and 4.2 Building services.

For Topics 4.1 and 4.2, candidate responses were generally weak on AO2 and AO4 questions within these topic areas and this has been a theme in previous series.

Centre would be encouraged to strengthen the teaching and learning within these topics beyond the basic Knowledge to enable candidates to answer AO2 and AO4 questions within these topic areas in future.

Unit 202 Building cavity walls, the questions were well responded to, with most of the questions within this unit performing well. Candidate performance was generally strong on AO1, AO2 and AO4 questions, like unit 201. Areas of weakness were seen in a few questions, and these were on the following topics and assessment objectives.

- AO1, topic 2.2 Forming openings.
- AO2, topic 3.1 Information sources and 4.1 Walling components.
- AO4, topic 1.3 Prepare materials and 4.2 Building cavity walls.

For Topics 4.1 and 4.2, candidate responses were generally weak on AO2 and AO4 questions within these topic areas and this has been a theme in previous series.

Centre would be encouraged to strengthen the teaching and learning within these topics beyond basic knowledge and recall enabling candidates to answer AO2 and AO4 questions within these topic area in future.

To improve candidate performance, centres are advised to reinforce the above topics when delivering the underpinning knowledge of these subjects. Centres are encouraged to promote good exam technique. Using past papers provided by the awarding bodies and encouraging candidates to read the textbooks available for Level 2 Bricklaying, as well as SmartScreen materials can be an effective way to do this.

Candidates must ensure they fully read and understand the questions, carefully pinpointing what is required before selecting their responses. Candidate may benefit from advice on structuring their time appropriately to be able allow sufficient time to read the options prior to making their selection.
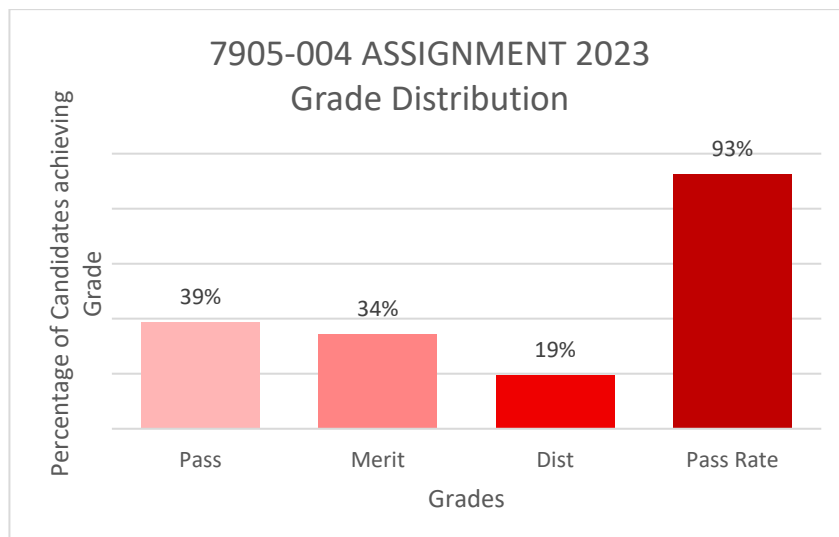
Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment,

Assessment: 7905-004 Level 2 in Bricklaying
Series: 2023

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	48

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:

Principal Moderator Commentary

The synoptic assignment is designed to cover the elements of the programme not assessed within the knowledge test. For this academic year, the assignment covered the following units.

- 202 Building cavity walls.
- 203 Building solid walls and piers.
- 204 Constructing basic arches.
- 205 Setting out buildings.

The synoptic assignment was based around the construction of a sample panel for a housing project. The assignment was divided into three tasks.

- Task 1 required the candidates to draw an arch to scale and label the parts.
- Task 2 required candidates to construct a sample panel wall which was an insulated cavity wall with a window opening, a pier a return and some decorative features.
- Task 3 required candidates to produce an evaluation of how the work would proceed and be completed.

Task 1 was completed by all the candidates but very few produced a drawing that was to scale. Most candidates were able to label the component parts accurately.

Task 2 the practical task was to build a cavity wall incorporating a window opening, a lintel, cavity tray, weep holes with a soldier course above the opening. There were some decorative features included in the task. The cavity had partial fill insulation. Most candidates approached the task well and managed to complete the task in the allocated time.

The work produced was generally to a good standard but there were instances where candidates did not follow the drawing correctly and many did not extend the insulation below the level of the DPC as shown in the drawing. There were also cases where insulation was not placed above the lintel. The raking cut was in some cases cut accurately but many failed to achieve the correct angle with some poor cutting in some instances. Some candidates did not cut the rake on the inner leaf of the cavity.

Task 3 the candidate self-evaluation was very comprehensive and assisted moderation. Candidates were honest in their reflection on their areas of strengths and weakness and what they would differently. It was encouraging that tutors were ensuring guidance was given on presentation and content.

AO1 Recall/Knowledge.
The knowledge of how to produce a scaled drawing was not apparent in a number of candidates' work. Questioning was used very effectively by some centres. Also, the Practical Observation forms pick up the areas where candidates performed well, this aided the assessment process.

AO2 Understanding
Candidates generally showed an understanding of how to complete the assignment in a well organised and logical sequence. Candidates completed the tasks with little guidance, and this was reflected in the marks awarded by the Assessors. The Practical Observation forms were completed by the assessors and provided good evidence and comments.

AO3 Practical Skills.
The quality of work was varied within groups and between centres. There were some candidates who failed to complete the model in the recommended time. Those that did complete were

mainly within the set tolerances, but some failed to meet the tolerances especially for plumb level and gauge.

AO4 Bringing it all together.
Candidates generally used their skills, knowledge, and understanding to bring the assignment together in a safe and satisfactory manner, within the recommended time.
Some candidates did complete the task but had to rush the work at the end and the quality of the finished work reflected this. Others could just work at one pace, were not very well organised, were unclear on what steps were necessary/disorganised. Some candidates ran out of time and were not able to complete work.

AO5 Attention to detail
The degree of accuracy varied across the cohort. Candidates that were well organised and planned the work managed to produce a good quality model in the allocated time.
Some candidate work lacked the final touches of attention to detail and spent little time on the cleaning of the finished work. Smudging on the face of brickwork, missed pointing, DPC projecting from wall were some of the issues on some models. These issues could have been avoided.

Summary
The information provided by assessors on the Practical observation forms was in most cases very useful. Assessors should ensure that they use the PO forms to gather information during the construction process on the candidates performance which can then be used to complete the CRF allocating marks accordingly and noting if tolerances have been met. Some assessors made no reference to the tolerances at all which makes it difficult to judge how robust the final model was.