



**Level 3 Advanced Technical
Diploma in Bricklaying
(7905-30) (450)**

Qualification Report 2024

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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.

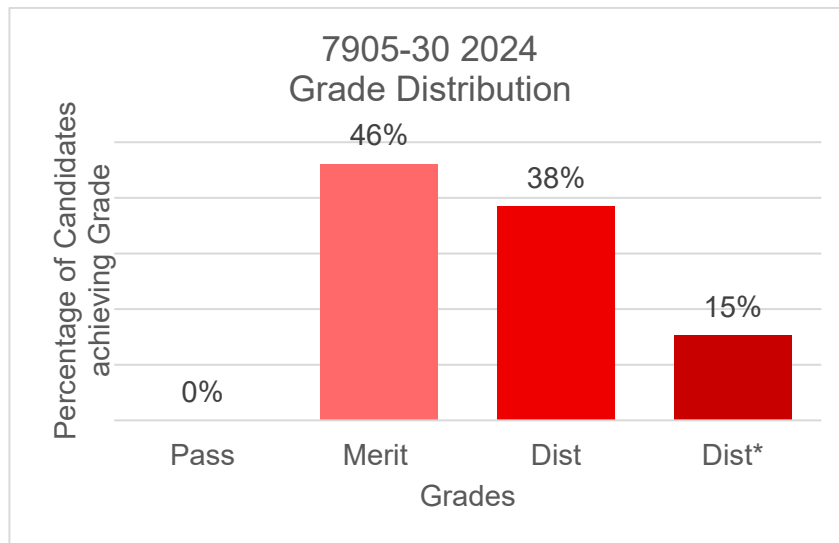
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2024 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments.

- 7905-501 – Level 3 Bricklaying – Theory Exam (1)
 - March 2024 (Spring)
 - June 2024 (Summer)
- 7905-002 – Level 3 Bricklaying – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The grade distribution for this qualification during the 2023/2024 academic year is shown below.



This data is based on the distribution as of 15 August 2024.

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 Exams

Grade Boundaries

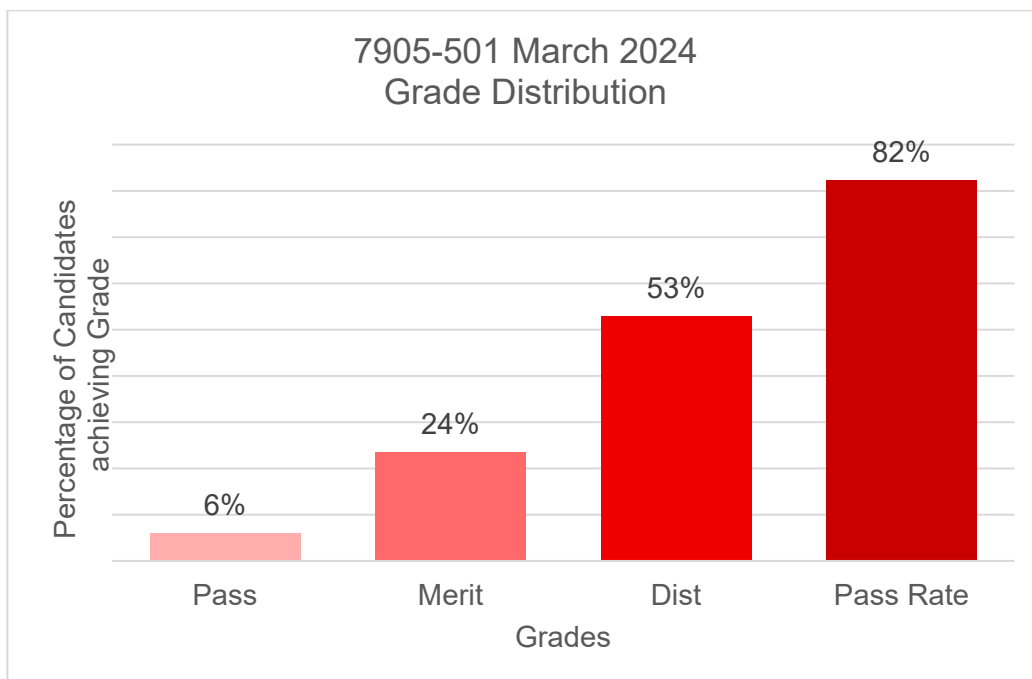
Assessment: 7905-501

Series: March 2024 (Spring)

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

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Total marks available | 70 |
| Pass mark | 28 |
| Merit mark | 37 |
| Distinction mark | 47 |

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment.



Assessment: 7905-501

Series: June 2024 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Total marks available | 70 |
| Pass mark | 28 |
| Merit mark | 37 |
| Distinction mark | 47 |

Due to the low number of candidates sitting the exam in June 2024, there is no grade distribution provided for this series.

Chief Examiner Commentary

Qualification Title: 7905-501 Level 3 Bricklaying –Theory Exam

Series 1 – March 2024

The March 2024 paper covered a wide range of questions from across the whole of the qualification syllabus.

The paper is structured to assess recall of knowledge (AO1), understanding (AO2) and applied knowledge (AO4). The paper was a combination of multiple-choice based assessment, short response questions and one extended response question.

The ten multiple choice questions were attempted by all candidates and all candidates gained good marks for this section of the exam.

All the short-written response questions were attempted by all candidates and a high level of marks were gained on these questions by some candidates. Candidates that scored lower marks in this section of the exam did not provide enough clear detail.

Candidates showed a good knowledge of construction terminology and gained good marks where identification of graphic symbols was required.

Unit 301 Principles of organising, planning, and pricing construction work, candidates performed well on most of the questions, with strength seen in the AO1 and AO2 questions related to the following topics:

- 2.2 Thermally insulated materials.
- 2.4 Energy saving measures.
- 5.1 Written and oral communication.
- 6.1 Manual drafting.

Most candidates were able to give an overview of the Building Regulations but struggled to give examples of what is covered by the regulations.

Most candidates understood the concept of penalty clauses and gained good marks for this question, but weakness was seen in 3.1 Tendering process for this unit with some candidates struggling to describe what a closed tender is.

Varied responses were seen on Topic 6.3 Building Information Modelling (BIM), but candidates gained some marks for this question.

Good responses were seen across the questions within Unit 302 Repair and maintain masonry structures. Areas of strength were seen around the following topics:

- 1.1 Common materials, candidates were able to identify temporary supports used to replace a defective lintel and gained good marks for this question.
- 1.2 Defects in masonry structures.

Unit 305 Constructing fireplaces and chimneys, candidates showed a varied knowledge of chimneys and components used to construct chimneys, and many candidates could not fully describe how a fireback is positioned. Areas of weakness were seen around Topic 2.2 Process to build fireplaces and chimneys.

The extended response question (ERQ) is designed to provide candidates with the opportunity to show a depth of understanding across a range of topics contained within the qualification, allowing them to demonstrate their understanding of how a project should be planned and the things that should be considered when confronted with a specific scenario.

Some candidates were able to structure their answers to discuss in detail the considerations for preparing a quote for the work, and some were able to discuss how the work should be planned with consideration for the conditions that the project was subject to. Health and safety and protection of the public were given good consideration and the restrictions posed from a restricted site area.

The question was attempted by all candidates and good responses were provided by some candidates, who provided clear detail and a methodical approach to carrying out the work. Candidates that achieved lower marks failed to identify the restrictions imposed by a site with limited access and adjacent to a road and provided insufficient detail.

Candidates should be reminded of the need to demonstrate their full depth and range of knowledge and understanding across all topic areas. Candidates should also be reminded to read the questions carefully before responding and pitch their answers to the marks available to ensure they are able to access the maximum marks. During the extended response questions candidates should demonstrate they understand and have analysed the scenario, giving justifiable reasoning behind their responses to fully access the marks available.

Centres and candidates are encouraged to reference the handbook whilst preparing for this assessment, to ensure that topics have been covered to sufficient depth.

Series 2 – June 2024

Due to the small number of candidates sitting the exam in June 2024, there is no Chief Examiner commentary for this series.

Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

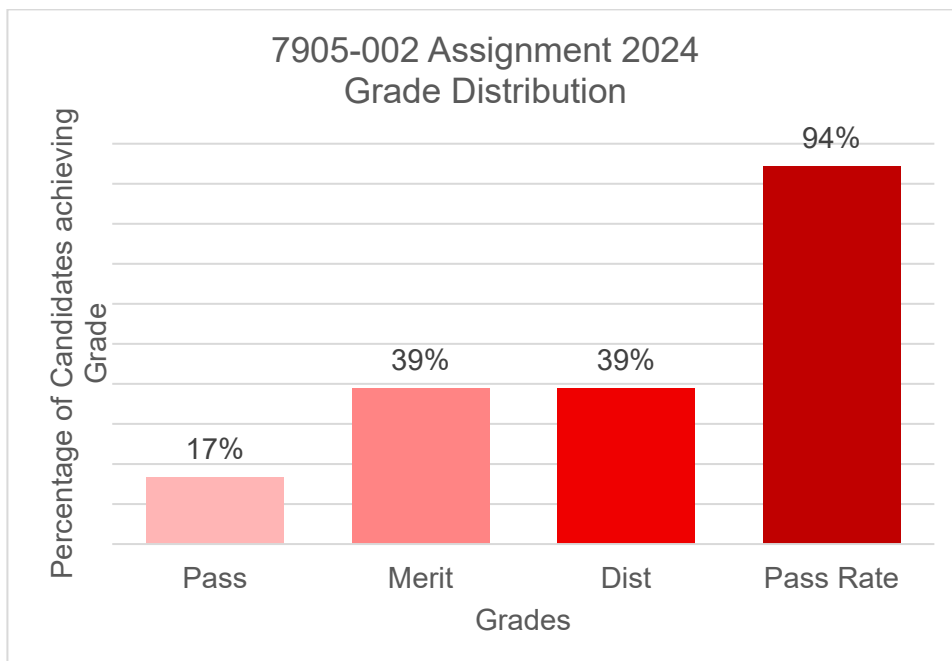
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment.

Assessment: 7905-002

Series: 2024

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Total marks available | 60 |
| Pass mark | 27 |
| Merit mark | 37 |
| Distinction mark | 47 |

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. The assignment covers the following units.

- Unit 303 Construct radial and battered brickwork
- Unit 304 Construct decorative and reinforced brickwork

This assignment was based around the construction of a sample wall to present to a client. The assignment was broken down into three parts as follows.

- Task 1 candidates were required draw a drawing of an axed segmental arch to span an opening.
- Task 2 candidates were required to set out and build the solid wall to the specification and drawing.
- Task 3 candidates were required to complete a self-evaluation.

The tasks were approached in an organised way which allowed candidates the time, space, and materials to complete the assignment safely without being disturbed.

There was a small number of candidates doing the assignment this year.

Task 1

There was an improved performance this year with a high number of candidates producing a good standard of drawing with correctly labelling. Some candidates still showed a lack of knowledge and understanding of segmental arch geometry and need more drawing practice before attempting the drawing. There were also a small number who had difficulty labelling all four elements of the drawing correctly.

Task 2

Most candidates were able to produce the task to a satisfactory standard. The centre of the structure required candidates to create a curved step. Several candidates struggled to set the curved work out and had 14 bricks in the curve and big joints instead of 15 bricks.

The range of finish was varied across the cohort with some candidates having problems with the squint quoin. The cut brickwork and brick on edge proved challenging for many candidates. Lower scoring candidates had difficulty with the decorative panel but generally this element of work was completed to a good standard. Higher scoring candidates managed to work within all the tolerances. However, some candidates struggled to do this and had problems with plumbing and gauging the squint quoin.

The photographic evidence was generally of good quality and followed the guidelines in terms of number and elevations required.

Task 3

Candidates completed a self-evaluation, and these were comprehensive. The feedback does help with assessment and moderation purposes as candidates generally gave an honest reflection on their own strengths and areas for development. It was noted that candidates tended to type up their evaluation this year, giving the finished task within this assessment a professional appearance.

AO1 Recall

There was an improved number of very good, scaled drawings, fully labelled and arch bricks drawn in. Most candidates were able to compile a comprehensive resource list with some effective use of industry terminology.

AO2 Understanding

Some candidates had difficulty setting out the model, particularly the curved work. There was no evidence that a template was used to set out and build the curved work. Loading out was generally completed prior to starting to build the task.

Some candidate struggled to interpret the drawings provided. The drawings showed 15 bricks, but some candidates only use 14 bricks which demonstrated that candidates had a lack of understanding in this area.

AO3 Practical skills

This assessment objective carries 40% of the marks and is marked against the tolerances and practical skills. Most candidates were able to complete the practical task in the allocated time and to a good standard. Candidates that completed the task, were able to plan and work in a logical sequence. Some candidates struggled with planning and working in a logical sequence resulting in some candidates rushing to complete and therefore comprising the overall quality of the finished task. The panel surround, as indicated in the drawing, was difficult for lower scoring candidates, but higher scoring candidates were able to complete and to a good standard.

Areas of weakness demonstrated with practical task was the curved work, the panel, plumbing the squint quoin and the raking cuts. Due to some candidates using less bricks than indicated on the drawing this resulted in large joints between the bricks when the wall was built.

In some cases it was unclear why marks were awarded or deducted as tolerances were not specified by the assessors.

AO4 Bringing it all together

Candidates who planned their work were able to work to a logical sequence and complete the practical within the recommended time and were able to check and verify their finished task. Candidates who struggled to plan tended to rush and ran out of time.

AO5 Attention to detail

Candidates that did well in this AO were candidates who planned their time effectively, giving them an opportunity to regularly check their work. Candidates who scored lower in this AO did not plan effectively therefore their finished task lacked attention to detail. Good housekeeping and working safely was evident across the cohort.

Summary

Candidates should be reminded to thoroughly read the brief and the drawings to be able to set out and build the practical to the specification. Candidates be encouraged to plan their work before commencing the practical task to be able to complete within the recommended time without having to rush. Centres should make candidates aware of the importance of tolerances and use past assignments to demonstrate this.

Centres should familiarise themselves with the marking grid and work should be continued on this to improve standardisation within the centres. Judgments should include the full range of evidence. The content of the Practical Observation (PO) forms must refer to what has been done well and what has not been done so well and include tolerances where appropriate. The Candidate Record Forms (CRF) must have accurate descriptions of why the marks are being awarded or not. Centres are generally good at this, but some centres can still improve. The photographic evidence was generally of good quality and supported moderation; however, some

centres are still submitting more than what is required and sometimes the photographs are of poor quality.