

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Architectural Joinery (7906-21)

Qualification Report 2022

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Foreword

Results August 2022

As you will likely be aware, Ofqual has announced that grading for General Qualifications this summer will be more generous than prior to the pandemic. This is partly due to managing the impact of disruption and learning loss on learner performance and also managing fairness between learners in different years who had different methods of determining their grades. Therefore, for A levels and GCSEs, grading will seek a midway position between 2019 and 2021, meaning, in general, results will be somewhat higher than prior to the pandemic. This year, 2022, is a transitional year and outcomes and standards will likely return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

Similarly, for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs), this summer will be a transitional year and Ofqual has now been clear that for VTQs “we should expect that this summer’s results will look different, despite exams and assessments taking a big step towards normality.” Ofqual has published a blog [What’s behind this summer’s VTQ results](#)

In acknowledgement of the disruption to learning and to support fairness for all learners certificating this summer (some of whom will be competing against learners taking General Qualifications for the same progression and higher education opportunities), we will be taking loss of learning into consideration, whilst still acknowledging the need to uphold the validity of the qualifications. On this basis, we have made the decision to apply a form of ‘safety net’ through some additional ‘generosity’ to both the theory examinations and synoptic assignments within our Technical Qualifications wherever appropriate, (noting that it may not be appropriate to apply where there is a clear impact on knowledge and skills to practice, particularly health and safety requirements or other relevant legislation). We are therefore also reviewing candidate work a few marks below (equivalent to 5% of maximum marks) the Pass and Distinction notional boundaries – the boundaries used during the awarding process as the best representation of maintaining the performance standard from 2019.

The reason for lowering boundaries, where appropriate, by 5% of the maximum marks available, is that it is broadly commensurate with the level of generosity learners are likely to see in General Qualifications at level 2 and level 3. Providing that senior examiners can support the quality of learners’ work seen below the notional boundaries and agree it is sufficient to maintain the integrity, meaning and credibility of the qualifications, the grade boundaries will be lowered across the full set of grades – e.g Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction Star.

Given the circumstances, this is the best approach to take into account the disruption to teaching and learning across every learner in a fair and transparent way, and at the same time maintain the integrity and meaning of qualifications. This approach helps to level our Technical Qualifications awarding approach with that adopted for General Qualifications and other qualifications awarded in England and in the wider UK.

Spring examination series 2022

Having taken this decision, we are also mindful of learners who have taken components in **Spring 2022** and believe they should also have access to the same level of generosity. For these learners, we wish to adopt a similar approach. Therefore, for learners taking Technical Qualification assessments in spring there will be similar generosity, through the addition of 5% of the maximum mark available for the assessment. It is a different mechanism to that we are using for the summer assessments but provides the same level of generosity to those learners taking assessments in the summer.

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.

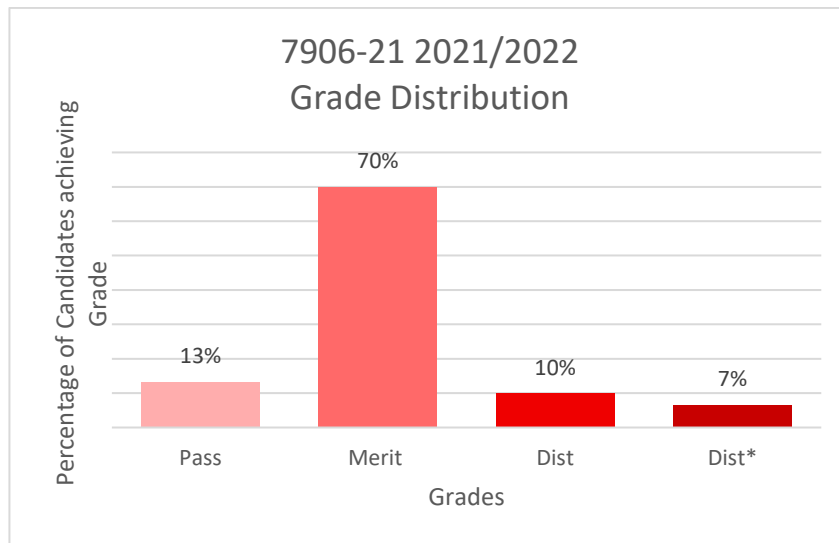
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2022 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments;

- 7906-005/505 Level 2 in Architectural Joinery – Theory exam
 - March 2022 (Spring)
 - June 2022 (Summer)
- 7906-006 Level 2 in Architectural Joinery – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The grade distribution for this qualification during the 2021/2022 academic year is shown below;



This data is based on the distribution as of 22 August 2022.

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

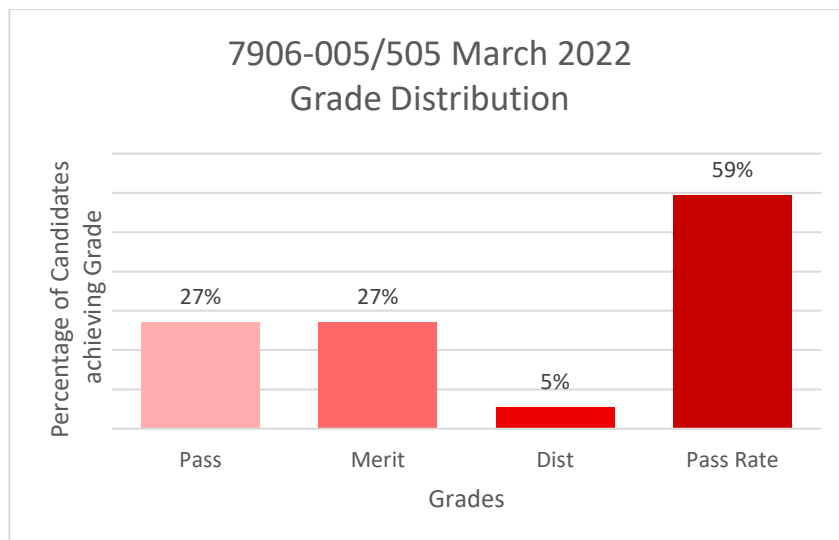
Assessment: 7906-005/505
Series: March 2022 (Spring)

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	27
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	45

The generosity applied to the summer assessments will also retrospectively be applied to candidates who achieved their best result in spring. 5% of the base mark of the assessment will be added to their score rather than applied to boundaries.

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment, it does not account of any marks that have been amended due to generosity.

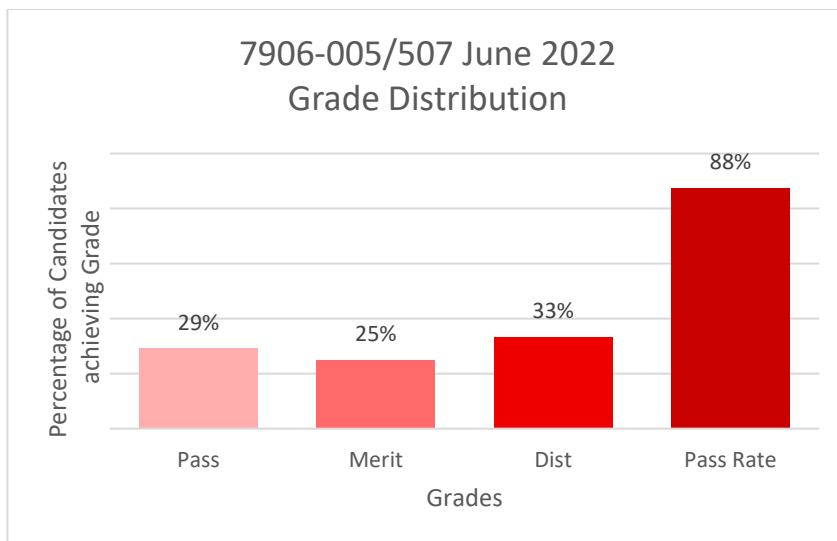


Assessment: 7906-005/505
Series: June 2022 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment.

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

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



Chief Examiner Commentary

7906-005/505 Level 2 Architectural Joinery -Theory Exam

Series 1 – March 2022

This exam covers units 201 (Principles of construction), 206 (Planning and preparation for architectural joinery production) and 207 (Use of woodworking machinery). The questions are broken down into three assessment objectives, AO1 (Recall of knowledge), AO2 (Understanding) and AO4 (Applied knowledge).

Historically there has to date been a small uptake of this exam. 37 Candidates in total sat this test.

Candidates generally performed well this series answering most of the AO1 questions correctly. The AO2 (Understanding) and AO4 (Applied knowledge) questions proved to be more challenging this series.

Unit 201 (Principles of construction); Candidates performed well generally on majority of the questions asked within this unit. The only exceptions were questions asked around roofs and finishes.

Unit 206 (Planning and preparation for architectural joinery construction); This unit proved most challenging, with questions around material science being a consistent weakness in candidate work seen. Other topics where candidates experienced difficulty were setting/marking out tools and understanding questions on jointing techniques.

Unit 207 (use of woodworking machinery); Candidates performed very well on most questions, with the exception of topics including hazards, and the use of machinery.

To improve candidate performance, centres are advised to reinforce the above topics when delivering the underpinning knowledge of these subjects. 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 and make their selection.

Series 2 – June 2022

This exam covers units 201 (Principles of construction), 206 (Planning and preparation for architectural joinery production) and 207 (Use of woodworking machinery). The questions are broken down into three assessment objectives, AO1 (Recall of knowledge), AO2 (Understanding) and AO4 (Applied knowledge).

To date there has only been a small uptake of this exam. 24 Candidates in total sat this test 4 on Evolve and 20 on paper.

Candidates generally performed well this series answering 83% of the AO1 questions correctly, 94% of the AO2 (Understanding) and 75% AO4 (Applied knowledge) questions correctly.

This was an improvement over the last series.

In unit 201 (Principles of construction); Candidates performed well generally on all of the questions asked within this unit, the only exception being on a question relating to substructures.

In unit 206 (Planning and preparation for architectural joinery construction); Candidates performed very well with no topics being poorly responded to with the exception of types of ironmongery required for joinery products.

In unit 207 (use of woodworking machinery); Candidates performed well on most questions, with the exception of topics including pre-start checks, and the use of machinery.

Centres are advised to reinforce the above poorly performing topics when delivering the underpinning knowledge of these subjects. Candidates should be advised they fully read the questions carefully before selecting their responses and structure their time appropriately to be able allow sufficient time to read and make their selection.

Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

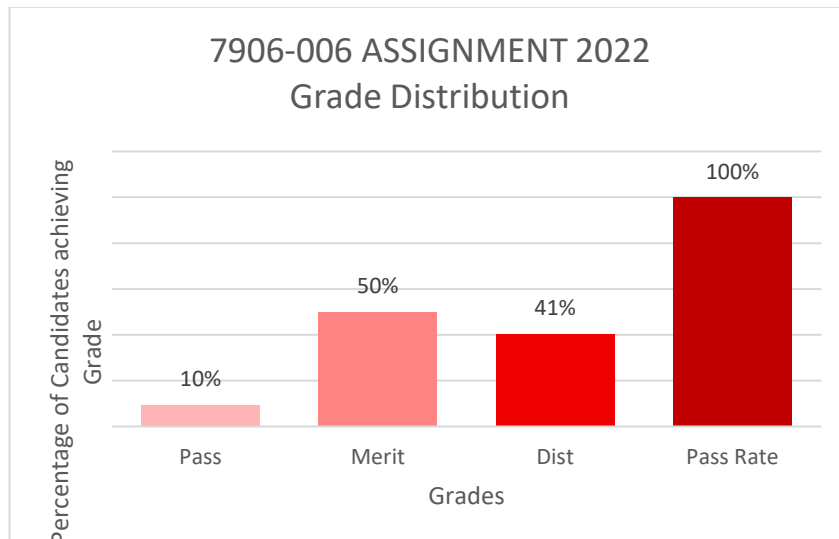
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment

Assessment: 7906-006

Series: 2022

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	22
Merit mark	30
Distinction mark	39

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



Principal Moderator Commentary

The synoptic assignment is designed to cover the elements of the programme not assessed within the knowledge test.

The synoptic assessment required the candidate to produce a setting out rod for a full panelled door with diminishing stiles and a cutting list, (Task 1) and manufacture the top portion of the door only (Task 2).

Most candidates successfully completed the tasks; some to a much higher standard than others and this were reflected in the wide range of marks allocated.

Following completion and time for reflection candidate had to complete a self-evaluation document (Task 4).

Breakdown on each Assessment Objective (AO)

- **AO1** Recalls knowledge from across the breadth of the qualification.

Most candidates demonstrated good evidence of recalling knowledge across all tasks selecting the correct tools and equipment for producing the setting out rod and producing accurate cutting lists.

- **AO2** Demonstrates understanding of concepts, theories and processes from across the breadth of the qualification.

A basic drawing was provided showing the front elevation of the door only. Hidden and joint detail was omitted to allow the marker to assess the candidates level of understanding, problem solving ability when setting out and transferring lines from the rod to the timber sections.

- **AO3** Demonstrates technical skills from across the breadth of the qualification.

Most candidates completed the task in the recommended time with various degrees of success most could be classified as fit for purpose with only minor errors while others did not fully met this standard, the most common mistake been candidates not working to a recognised sequence and making simple errors that required replacement timber. i.e. Not allowing for the grooves and chopping mortices full width. Some good use of hand and portable power tools was observed with joints being tight and flush to all cheeks and shoulders while the lower scoring candidates had gaps to one or both faces with clear gaps around the tenon shoulders.

- **AO4** Applies knowledge, understanding and skills from across the breadth of the qualification in an integrated and holistic way to achieve specified purposes.

Candidates that achieved the higher marks within AO4 had familiarised themselves with the assessment brief and fully understood what was required and devised a sequence of operations that would enable them to complete the task timely, and to a standard that met the tolerances. Candidates that did not prepare and plan adequately tended to be marked lower within this AO.

- **AO5** Demonstrates perseverance in achieving high standards and attention to detail while showing an understanding of wider impact of their actions.

As Architectural joinery is very much process driven, with tight tolerances required within industry. Attention to detail is paramount from start to finish in the manufacture of any joinery item, and the candidates that regularly checked measurements throughout the setting out stage tended to produce working drawings that were clean, accurate and easy to follow.

Using face side and edge marks correctly enabled the more organised candidates to mark all joints at the same time again demonstrating a comprehension of what is required to produce an accurate piece of Architectural joinery.

Summary

Candidates that read and fully understood the brief, who planned a sequence of operations and regularly checked their setting out detail tended to produce the most accurate setting out detail with an accurate setting out rod and planned sequence of operations. Some good practices seen; candidates marked out in pairs, machining timber in batches and completed the task comfortably within the time, allowing them time to ensure the overall finish met the set tolerances. Candidates that did not work to a recognised sequence tended to make basic errors requiring replacement components, missing haunches, tenons cut to the incorrect size, large wedges filling gaps to joints and had to rush to finish resulting in an overall poor finish resulting in a lower overall mark been awarded.

Risk/issues

Task 1 it was noted that not all centres provided each candidate with the full brief resulting in a minority of candidates only producing the top portion of the setting out detail and a cutting list that matched the drawing and not the whole door. Others only showed the joint and hidden detail to the top portion and omitted the jointing detail for the bottom rail. Some cutting lists lack information such as lengths, number off, materials, etc.

Task 2 it was noted that all candidates from some centres produced rods and finished task using the same designs (rebated sections) (unusually jointing methods) while you would expect candidates to produce work using the methods taught it must be emphasised that it is down to the candidate to select the construction and jointing methods not the centres.

Task 3 the self-evaluation document is be used to reflect the overall performance of the candidate with a recommendation of 300 words. Some candidates struggled to produce a good reflection often writing a basic method statement and was often difficult to read, and uploaded on scraps of paper, while it is not mandatory to use the proformas supplied it would be advantageous if the candidates had the opportunity to word process these if they find articulating their thoughts using traditional handwriting challenging.