

7907-501 Level 3 Painting and Decorating – Theory Exam

March 2024

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 2024** examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment:
7907-501 Level 3 Painting and Decorating – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2024

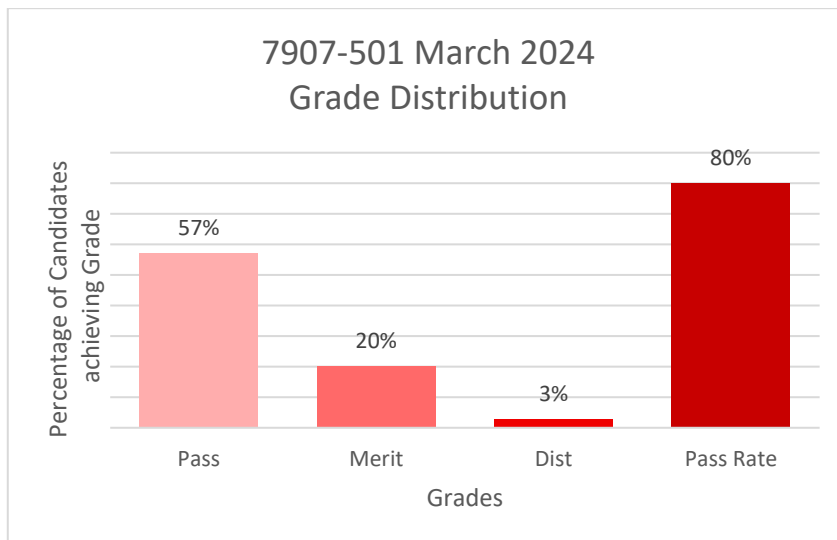
Grade Boundaries and Distribution

Assessment: 7907-501
Series: March 2024

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

Total marks available	70
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	46

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



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7907-501

Series: March 2024

The paper consisted of multiple-choice questions, short answer written responses and culminated in an extended response question where candidates were given a specific scenario to enable them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the topics. The questions are broken down into a mixture of assessment objectives that cover the breadth of units examined. These are AO1 (Recall of knowledge), AO2 (Understanding), and AO4 (Application of knowledge and understanding) which is assessed in the extended response question (ERQ).

The paper was set at an appropriate level and was consistent with the levels of difficulty set in past papers. The paper covered units 301, 302, 304, 306 in the 7907-30 Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Painting and Decorating Qualification Handbook, with the assessment to be scored out of a possible 70 marks.

Generally, most candidates demonstrated good levels of recall and knowledge on questions that are reflected in workshop practice. Areas of strength were shown for questions based on working at height, preparation of surfaces, wood graining techniques and health and safety including:

- Identifying the regulations that apply for given scenarios.
- The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Safety procedure for disabling the release of paint from an airless spray set-up.

Areas of the exam where candidate responses were poor included:

- Sustainability development and the basic understanding of current guidance on sustainable buildings i.e. BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology).
- Identification of gilding tools used to apply metal leaf.
- Identification of parts of an airless spray set-up and the full safe shutdown procedure.
- Calculating the quantity and cost of paint.

The ERQ lacked key details from most candidates with only a small proportion of candidates accessing the higher mark band. In their response candidates mentioned risk assessment and method statements (RAMS) as incidental elements, but they did not identify any hazards or their control measures. Most of the candidate responses for the ERQ lacked clear methodology for the ordering of the tasks. Candidate descriptions for the application of a water-borne paint to a panel door, using an airless spray set-up were vague and did not evidence any in depth knowledge or understanding in this area. However, an area of strength was the application of decorative effects for marbling replication where most candidates were able to describe how to effectively prepare a surface and apply a tinted glaze to replicate a marble effect.

Candidates should be reminded to read the questions fully and carefully, ensuring they understand the requirements of the question and align their answers to the marks available, particularly at middle and higher band response levels. Candidates also need to be reminded of the need to demonstrate their full depth/ breadth and range of knowledge (AO1) and understanding (AO2) across all topics. During the ERQ (AO4) candidates should demonstrate they understand and have analysed the scenario fully and show a confident understanding, giving justifiable reasoning behind their answers to fully access the marks available.

Centres need to ensure candidates have had ample exam practice and give detailed responses to questions, avoid leaving questions unanswered and continue to focus on trade terminology. Centres are also advised to utilise the support material available on the City & Guilds website such as guidance support and past papers so that candidates are familiar with the exam style. In particular, candidates should be encouraged to develop their understanding of how to respond to different command verbs (e.g. State, Explain, Describe, Discuss).