

# 7905-501 Level 3 Bricklaying- Theory exam (1)

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, incorrect examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment.  
**7905-501 Level 3 in Bricklaying – Theory Exam (1)**

# Theory Exam – March 2024

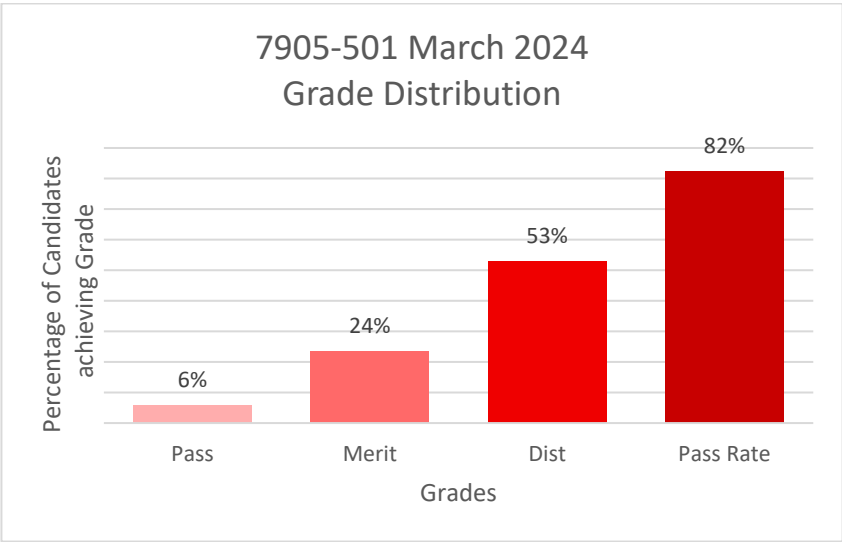
## Grade Boundaries and Distribution

Assessment: **7905- 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	28
Merit mark	37
Distinction mark	47

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: 7905-501**

**Series: March 2024**

The March 2024 paper covered a wide range of questions from across the whole of the qualification syllabus. The paper was structured to test 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:

- 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.

In 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 the 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 need to be reminded of the need to demonstrate their full depth/breadth 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 access all marks possible. 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.