

7908-005/505 - Level 2 Technical Certificate in Plastering – 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:

7908-005/505 Level 2 Plastering – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2024

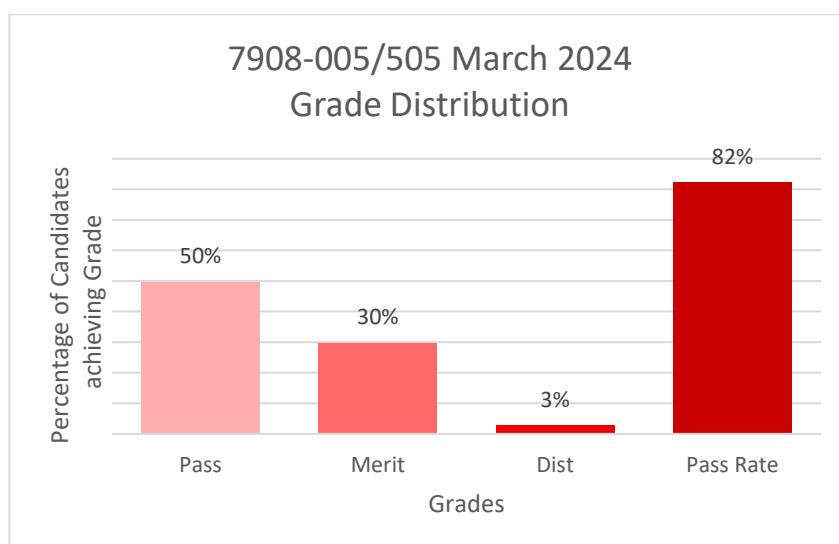
Grade Boundaries and Distribution

Assessment: **7908-005/505**

Series: **March 2024**

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	27
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	44

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



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: **7908-005/505**

Series: **March 2024**

This was the seventh series of the Level 2 Technical Certificate in Plastering theory examination. The question paper has been written to include knowledge and understanding questions in line with learning outcomes relating to Unit 201 Principles of construction and Unit 202 Internal solid plastering and fixing sheet materials.

The question paper was comparable with previous series in terms of style and level of difficulty and met the requirements of the test specification in the qualification handbook.

Generally, candidates performed well and demonstrated good recall knowledge throughout the examination, but particularly in the following topic areas:

- Identifying trade roles in construction.
- Health and safety legislation.
- Types of hazardous waste.
- Identifying basic welfare facilities.
- Purpose of Health and Safety inductions.
- Identifying images of tools and equipment.
- Identifying performance plasterboards.
- Types of plasterboard fixings.
- The use of chemical additives.

Overall candidates also performed well and demonstrated good understanding in the following topic areas:

- The use of additives and reinforcement in traditional cement based plasters.
- Identifying and selecting standard and performance plasterboard.
- The use of lightweight plaster.
- The use of tools and equipment.
- Preparing backgrounds with bonding slurries and bonding grit adhesives.
- Distinguishing between standard and performance plasterboards.

Candidates demonstrated weakness in knowledge and understanding questions relating to the following topics:

- The difference between commercial and domestic buildings.
- Types of backgrounds and characteristics, including suction rates.
- Fixing centres when installing plasterboard.
- The segregation of different waste materials.
- Types and purpose of foundations and dividing walls in a building.
- Types of protection methods.
- Calculating surface areas for plaster application.
- The role of professionals in construction.
- Site layout in terms of welfare requirements.
- The reason for applying external rendering systems.
- The use of technical information such as manufacturer's information and drawings.
- Construction trade activities relating to schedules on a Gantt chart.
- Preparation of backgrounds to receive three coat plasterwork.
- Types and causes of defects in plaster surfaces.

Candidates found some questions particularly challenging. These questions mainly related to identifying causes of structural defects, understanding the use of drawings and construction documents, the position of components within the superstructure, calculation of materials required, and recognising and identifying characteristics of background surfaces.

Candidates performed slightly below average with the applied knowledge (AO4) questions which covered content across the two units, principles of construction, and internal plastering and fixing sheet materials. These questions were based on scenarios and candidates were required to provide responses to problem solving defects and recognise complex construction processes.

Candidates must be reminded of the need to provide and demonstrate their full depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding across both topic areas for principles of construction, internal plastering, and fixing sheet materials.

Centre staff and candidates should be encouraged to further develop their understanding of the topics covered within the exam to an appropriate depth, and are advised to re-visit the handbook in preparation for future exam series. Centres should also support candidates by practising sample papers to ensure they are familiar with the style and topics covered within the exam paper. Finally, when revising for extended response questions, candidates need to demonstrate that they have analysed the scenario carefully to show how they can use their understanding to provide a measured response, complete with justifications on why their chosen process is recommended