

T Level Technical Qualification in Onsite Construction

8711-305 Bricklaying Occupational Specialism Report (Summer 2023)

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Foreword

Summer 2023 Results

The occupational specialism qualification is made up of one components, which need to be successfully achieved to attain the T Level Bricklaying Occupational Specialism.

We discussed the approach to standard setting/maintaining with Ofqual and the other awarding organisations before awarding this year. We have agreed to take account of the newness of qualifications in how we award this year to recognise that students and teachers are less familiar with the assessments ([Vocational and technical qualifications grading in 2023 – Ofqual blog](#)), whilst also recognising the standards required for these qualifications.

Introduction

This document has been prepared to be used as a feedback tool for providers in order to support and enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for the T Level Technical Qualification (TQ) in Building Services Engineering for Construction **Occupational Specialisms**.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in the occupational specialism assignment. 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 summer 2023 assessment series.

The grade boundaries that were used to determine candidate's final summer 2023 results are also provided. **For summer 2023, as per Ofqual guidance, the approach to grading recognises that these are new qualifications.**

8711-305 Bricklaying Occupational Specialism

This is the first sitting of the occupational specialism.

The performance of the cohort overall was strong, in particular for the setting out task. This occupational specialism provided a good test of skills for the cutting accurately and setting out and the cohort performed well for these tasks. Candidates performed less well on the construction of transverse joints with full and solid joints.

All candidates completed the tasks in a logical order and followed the brief and in the time allowed.

Task 1 Prepare and plan for the construction and repair of complex masonry structures

The candidates had the opportunity with the drawing to demonstrate individual thoughts, evidencing wider recall and knowledge as well as their drawing skills by incorporating more complex designs. The stronger candidates provided accurately scaled sketches that were clearly annotated using the correct technical terms and often used more complex designs and these showed detailed geometry to find the striking points and the angles for the skewbacks.

The presentations were generally well informed and, like the drawings, provided the candidates with a good opportunity to develop skills that are highly valued in industry, for example in delivering a toolbox talk or in presenting to a client. Most candidates were capable of building content in PowerPoint and the performance observation sheets (POs) had been used well with appropriate narrative from the marking grids to provide evidence of their delivery.

Many of the risk assessments lacked ratings and were not able to demonstrate how control measures are used to reduce risk ratings and the template supplied with the exemplar materials did not help candidates – this was taken into account during the moderation process and the template is being addressed for future series.

For higher scoring candidates, the method statements materials lists, bill of quantities and risk assessments have comprehensive and detailed lists using the correct technical terms and they have been set out in a logical order. Lower scoring candidates missed some items and so it wasn't a full list, eg missing hand tools.

Actions providers can take to support assessment preparation for future series:

Ahead of future series, providers should further develop candidates' drawing skills so that they know how to use scale and proportion, and drawings are completed with careful consideration showing structural working out as well as understanding the importance of annotating sketches with the appropriate technical terms.

Task 2 Construct complex masonry structures

This task was a good test of a range of bricklaying skills. Candidates needed to accurately set out the work to help them to maintain bond and plumb throughout the construction. Maintaining English bond in such short lengths requires accurate cutting otherwise the perp joints will vary in size and be likely to wander around.

Candidate generally interpreted the drawing well; they were able to set out the lengths and the angles accurately and this was a demonstration of candidates linking theory to practice. Most candidates did not provide full and flush joints to their work as they proceeded, as expected in good practice. However this had not been specified in the task instructions so candidates were not penalised for this during moderation.

Actions providers can take to support assessment preparation for future series:

Tutors are advised to teach candidates to build walls with full and flush internal joints and to demonstrate this quality in their photographic evidence and in their PO forms.

Task 3 Renovate and repair masonry structures

This task provided a typical test of skills that would be required in industry. One of the key aspects of this type of work is in ensuring that joints, particularly the upper bed joint is full and solid and none of the PO forms discussed this aspect. A good performance was shown across the cohort with most candidates completing the task successfully and the difference in marking was around the preparation for the tasks and the quality of the finished pointing. Lower scoring candidates smudged the faces of the brickwork and the repointing wasn't quite as tidy.

Actions providers can take to support assessment preparation for future series:

In future series assessors can test the solidness of the pointing and include this in their commentary on the PO form.

Best practice and guidance to providers on potential areas for improving performance in assessment

It is recommended that providers utilise and deliver the sample assessments as formative assessment to support candidates in preparation for summative assessment. This will not only help prepare candidates but will be an ideal opportunity for marker training and standardisation.

The centre staff and candidates must thoroughly read the assessment to ensure the work is carried out to the specification required. Moderators will be working to the assessment brief and marking grids and making judgments accordingly.

When building solid walls candidates are encouraged to build with solid joints as work proceeds and not rely on mortar falling into these gaps as work on proceeding courses commences.

Arch centres should be appropriately secured with struts and be released safely, normally by the use of folding wedges.

Appropriate PPE should be worn at all times and assessors should ensure that candidates are working safely and should not come to harm or risks to health from the materials used in the assessment.

Where photographic evidence is requested e.g. for plumbing and levelling, ensure that the bubble is seen and also that you can see what the level is touching at either end and that any gaps are clearly visible, likewise, the gauge photo will need to show the actual measurement and also that the tape is touching the floor at the other end, ideally gauge would be measured showing consistent four courses to 300mm.

Photographs do not need to be great in number but do need to show everything a moderator would require to be able to perform the remote moderation work. Photos need to be of sufficient resolution to enable “zooming in” to determine quality.

Photographs should be collated into one document, and well labelled, and with commentary if possible.

Videos will need to show specific important points of the assessment, for instance the candidate setting up or using a machine safely.

Grade boundaries

The table below shows the grade mark ranges for the Occupational Specialism **for the summer 2023 series.**

Grade	Mark range 8711-305
Distinction	67 - 90
Merit	54 - 66
Pass	42 - 53
Unclassified (U)	0 - 41

Get in touch

The City & Guilds Quality team are here to answer any queries you may have regarding your T Level Technical Qualification delivery.

Should you require assistance, please contact us using the details below:

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