



EXAMINERS' REPORTS

**LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2 AWARD IN
CONSTRUCTING THE BUILT
ENVIRONMENT (ENGLAND)**

JANUARY 2022

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Annual Statistical Report

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CONSTRUCTING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Level 1 & 2 Award

January 2022

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN CONSTRUCTION

General Comments

Teachers are to be commended on their preparation of candidates for this unit assessment. It has been noted for past series that candidates should be encouraged to provide a reasonable amount of detail in their responses. The examining team felt that a significant number of candidates still failed to gain potential marks by providing overly short or limited responses. It is also suggested that candidates should read the questions fully, in order to understand what is being asked of them. There were several instances where candidates provided well written responses which simply did not address the question.

As stated in previous examiner reports it is hoped that this examination will, in addition to being an essential aspect of the WJEC award, provide good preparation for the acquisition of the CSCS card, and centres are advised that CSCS resources are good revision tools in preparing candidates for this examination.

Comments on individual questions/sections

- Q.1** This question had a facility factor of 68 and as such was the most accessible question on the paper. The question required candidates to identify type and meaning of various site signage. A number of candidates were not familiar with safe condition and heavy lifting signage and struggled in their responses.
- Q.2** This question had a facility factor of 59 and presented a challenge to a number of candidates who incorrectly responded with Health and Safety risks and not security risks as required.
The first part of this question (Part a) required candidates to identify security risks to a site office. This was reasonably well done by many candidates, as indeed was the second part of the question (Part b) which required the description of suitable control measures to minimise risks. But it was noted that some candidates did not expand on how the control measures they suggested would minimise the security risks they identified.
- Q.3** This question had a facility factor of 47 and as such was the most difficult question for the candidates. The question provided a brief scenario regarding iceberg house construction and in Part a asked candidates to consider the effect inadequate shoring could have when undertaking deep excavation. It was apparent that many candidates were not aware of shoring and its role in excavation and so responses were poor. Part b required the candidate to describe the effects of not using appropriate breathing apparatus when painting and decorating, again many candidates struggled in their responses and when the correct response was given there was insufficient description provided to attain full marks.

- Q.4** This question had a facility factor of 53 and presented a challenge to a number of candidates. The question provided a brief scenario and asked candidates to suggest three suitable control measures and describe how they minimise risk to the public. Most candidates were able to identify control measures, but many struggled to give sufficient detail when providing description.
- Q.5** This question had a facility factor of 65 and was reasonably well answered by many candidates. The question provided a brief scenario and asked candidates to consider the powers the HSE have (Part a) and then identify what action they would take in this instance (Part b).
- Q.6** This question had a facility factor of 61 was reasonably well answered by many candidates. Candidates were asked to select control measures from a given photograph and explain why they were in place.
- Q.7** This question had a facility factor of 62 and was reasonably well answered by many candidates. This is a twenty-mark question consisting of four photographs of construction sites. The identification of a hazard, the associated risks and suggestions for control measures which will minimise or remove these risks were well considered and communicated by most but, again, some candidates provided insufficient detail in their responses.

Summary of key points

Centres are advised to:

- place a greater emphasis on the differentiation of security and Health and Safety risks
- develop candidate knowledge and correcting identification of all types of site signage
- encourage candidates to provide extended responses to questions where appropriate
- develop candidate knowledge of construction techniques regarding excavation
- carry on the excellent work developing their candidates ability to identify hazards, describe the associated risks and suggest potential control measures.

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PLANNING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

General Comments.

Overall, candidates were able to attempt all questions and many very good responses were seen. Problems arising were often the result of candidates missing the context and theme of the assessment and not reading the questions carefully enough to enable responses that were relevant to the construction work described in the paper.

Comments on individual questions.

- Q.1** Calculation of quantities and costs. Several candidates demonstrated good skills and were able to gain full marks for this question. Other candidates had difficulty interpreting the requirements of the question and failed to calculate accurate areas on which to base their costings. Most candidates were able to gain marks where the required variables were provided.
- Q.2** Trades. Most candidates demonstrated good knowledge of the type of work carried out by the individual trades, although the use of examples could be encouraged when describing what a particular craftsperson produces. For full marks the responsibilities of a craftsperson needed to cover Health and Safety and several candidates were able to describe a Health and Safety responsibility that was relevant to the craftsperson's particular trade.
- Q.3** (a) Construction programme. Most candidates produced a sensible programme for the required work and gained good marks for this question. It is important that candidates cover the full-time allocation in their programme and differentiate timings according to the activity involved. A minority of candidates mis-read the question and attempted to re-order the activities or suggested sequences that involved impractical overlaps in the timings of the activities.
- (b) Factors which could affect the smooth running of the work. Many candidates described three sensible factors that would affect the construction of the wet rooms, as required. A minority of candidates described factors that might affect other construction projects but were not relevant to the construction of the wet rooms in the hotel.
- Q.4** Ordering and timing of construction work. Candidates found this question to be more challenging and many failed to identify critical activities, such as decorating the walls and laying the vinyl floor, that should have controlled the overall schedule.

Q.5 Identifying and sequencing key construction activities. The question concerned the construction of a car park. Most candidates identified laying of tarmac and painting white lines as key activities, and some included activities such as laying sub-base or hardcore and installing kerbs. A minority of candidates mis-interpreted 'key construction activities' and suggested associated activities such as ordering materials or estimating quantities.



WJEC
245 Western Avenue
Cardiff CF5 2YX
Tel No 029 2026 5000
Fax 029 2057 5994
E-mail: exams@wjec.co.uk
website: www.wjec.co.uk