6720-556 – Level 3 Constructing the Built Environment – Theory exam

March 2018

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 2018 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;
6720-556 Level 3 Constructing the Built Environment – Theory exam

Theory Exam – March 2018

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: 6720-556
Series: March 2018

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

Total marks available	90
Pass mark	36
Merit mark	49
Distinction mark	63

There is no grade distribution as no candidates passed the March 2018 series of the 6720-556 theory exam.

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: *6720-556*

Series 1 (March)

Overall, responses in this examination were of a low standard and responses to questions addressing AO1 Recalls Knowledge, indicates that there had been insufficient preparation for the theory exam.

Of those questions attempted, candidates generally performed well on an item relating to health & safety issues and a question asking for the identification of different types of arch. A couple of candidates were able to give correct solutions to the applied mathematical questions concerning binomial theorem and integral calculus.

Items related to Unit 308: Structural Mechanics were not well answered indicating that candidates either had not been prepared properly or they had yet to be taught the unit.

Items related to Unit 309: Civil Engineering Technology, with the exception of questions relating to health & safety, were answered with minimal understanding being shown.

Items related to Unit 311: Graphical Communication, including types of drawings, equipment used to complete drawings and BIM were presented with insufficient evidence.

Items related to Unit 320: Further Mathematics for the Built Environment included some correct solutions but most candidates were unable to clearly define mathematical terms or complete calculations correctly.

Centres need to prepare candidates appropriately for this exam. Units such as Structural Mechanics and Further Mathematics need to be taught appropriately and candidates need to give sufficient time to perform example calculations in preparation for the sitting of the exam.

Centres are advised to revisit current handbooks, test specifications and previous papers to fine-tune the delivery of their programmes.

Extended Response Question
The Extended Response Question was not answered well by most candidates. Candidates were unable to explain the term effective length, produced poor section details or did not comment on the structural considerations in the design of a concrete cast in situ frame. As commented above, all targeted structural mechanics items were weakly answered and this item performed, with its structural analysis elements, no differently than the specifically targeted items of the unit.