

Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel:

Technical Education

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
included in this report**

**Graphic Communication
Standard Grade**

General comments re entry numbers

Once again it is pleasing to see an increase in numbers. This may still be due to the movement of candidates from Technological Studies.

The improving quality of teaching plus the increase in quantity/quality of the use of IT should make the subject more attractive.

The progression to excellent upper school courses may also be a factor.

General comments

The layout and structure of all three papers was similar to last year. The number of 'KI' questions was increased to four to overcome the difficulties experienced last year.

It was disappointing to have the exam so late in the diet as this has an effect on candidate performance in the skills based element of 'Drawing Abilities'. Overall it was felt that the ability of the candidates was similar to last years, but the overall performance was slightly down.

The setters and markers felt that the general and credit papers were a little more testing, covering a wide range of learning outcomes.

Grade boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

Cut-off scores
Drawing Abilities

Credit	1	49	2	37
General	3	37	4	27
Foundation	5	20	6	11

Cut-off scores
Knowledge and Interpretation

Credit	1	25	2	19
General	3	17	4	13
Foundation	5	22	6	16

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

The **credit** paper was generally well attempted by those candidates appropriate to that level.

As with last year the **general** paper was well attempted by the credit candidates, in particular drawing abilities. A large number of foundation/general candidates attempted all or most of the questions, but the level of performance was less than it possibly should have been.

One general KI question caused problems for candidates of all levels, even though it was a straightforward question.

As with last year the true foundation candidates found the DA difficult at this level.

All areas of the **foundation** paper were well attempted by the candidates passing the general paper, but the true foundation candidates struggled with many areas of drawing abilities. There were a large number who did not even attempt most of the questions.

The KI tended to be very well done by most candidates.

There are still too many candidates that are being entered at incorrect levels.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Credit paper

The orthographic and the two pictorial questions were well done.

Question. 1, orthographic.

Most candidates achieved almost full marks and was therefore a good stating question.

Question. 3, planometric

Very well done, even if a number of candidates were inaccurate with the positioning of the objects.

Question. 5, isometric

Most credit candidates achieved high marks. The curves caused some problems for general candidates, but the rest of the question was very well answered.

The KI questions were well answered, in particular Question. 2, the colour theory question.

General paper

Question. 1, sketching

Most candidates achieved towards full marks for this. As with last year, the pictorial questions were well answered by credit/general candidates.

Question. 3, perspective

Answered well by candidates from each of the levels sitting this paper.

Question. 5, oblique

With the exception of the two front circles, this was also well answered by most candidates.

Foundation paper

Question.1, orthographic

As always the best answered question.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

Credit paper

Question. 7, cylinder

Very few candidates managed to draw the curve correctly on the elevation or development. The majority of general level candidates drew the development very poorly.

Question. 9, sectioning

Inaccurately drawn and very few candidates sectioned it properly, if at all.

KI was done well except for Question. 8, interpreting a drawing. This was a surprise, as this tends to be the best answered KI question.

General paper

Question. 5, oblique

Very few candidates can project forward in oblique. This is a problem that crops up each year.

Question 7, hexagon prism

Only around 50% of candidates knew how to construct a hexagon. This was disappointing.

Question. 8, pyramid

End elevation and true shape was poorly done by foundation and general candidates. Very few were able to transfer the width from the plan.

KI was not very good, in particular:

Question. 2, BS conventions

The correct terminology for line types continues to be a problem.

Question. 4, building drawing.

Knowledge of architectural symbols was very poor in some schools.

Question. 6, safety signs

Most candidates only achieved 2 from 7 for this question, therefore very poorly done. Normally a well answered topic but not this year.

Foundation paper

With the exception of question 1, a large number of foundation candidates struggled with the other DA questions. Many of these candidates appear to lack even the basic drawing skills and knowledge.