

Principal Assessor Report 2003

Assessment Panel:

Technical Education

Qualification area

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

**Craft and Design – Standard Grade
Foundation/General/Credit**

Statistical information: update

Number of resulted entries in 2002	15,218
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Number of pre-appeal entries in 2003	15,029
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General comments re entry numbers

Entries settled at around 15000 for the past few years
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Grade boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

The cut off scores at all three levels were realistic and appropriate.

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

CREDIT GRADE ONE – 38/60

CREDIT GRADE TWO – 28/60

GENERAL GRADE THREE – 38/60

GENERAL GRADE FOUR – 31/60

FOUNDATION GRADE FIVE – 38/60

FOUNDATION GRADE SIX – 27/60

The higher level cut off score in all three papers being 38/60 and the lower level hovering around 50%. This represents a very satisfactory and realistic set of cut off scores.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

The performance in all three papers showed a slight improvement on previous years.
The feedback from markers was on the whole very positive.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

CREDIT

1. Candidates answered this question well, in particular part (c) 'the setting of a marking gauge'
2. Good overall response to this short question.
3. Part (b) and (c) well answered.
4. Well answered question with the exception of part (b) 'adjusting the coping saw'
5. Good response
6. Answers would indicate that the majority of candidates had operated a wood lathe.
7. Parts (f) and (e) 'knowledge of knurling' was well answered.

GENERAL

1. Good response to this question with the exception of (e) 'identifying the twist drill' and (f) 'identifying the type of wood screw'
2. Very well answered question showing the majority of candidates had worked with acrylic.
3. Part (d) 'the naming of a bit for producing flat bottomed holes' was the only part of this question not well answered.
4. Part (c) (ii) – Most candidates were aware of the function of the metal ferrule.
5. Part (a) – Almost all candidates could list four specification statements. Part (d) – very good response to the modification required to prevent the shoes slipping off the rack.
6. Generally well answered.
7. Part (b) – surprised by the number of candidates who could identify the two vices shown. Part (c) – almost all candidates could extract the dimensions from the drawing.

FOUNDATION

The format and level of the questions made this paper appropriate and accessible to the vast majority of foundation level candidates. Candidates were well prepared for the design questions and questions involving cutting lists.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

CREDIT

- 3 (e) – As in the past candidates showed little knowledge of the casting process. This is in part due to school no longer demonstrating this process for reasons of health and safety.
- 4 (b) – Although most candidates showed an awareness of the possible adjustments of a coping saw the majority did not describe how the tool would be adjusted.
- 4 (f) (i) – Only a few candidates managed to extract the correct height from the table.
- 7 – Metalwork questions continue to cause problems. This could reflect the fact that the majority of practical projects are wood based.

GENERAL

- 4 – The metalworking aspect of this question was poorly answered. Few candidates were aware of the adhesive required for securing wood to metal.
- 5 (c) – Few candidates were aware of the advantage of a ‘knock down fitting’

FOUNDATION

- 1 (h) – A significant number of candidates did not recognise a counter sunk screw.
- 2 (h) – Despite being examined on a regular basis many candidates could not identify a tap.
- 6 (c) – Most candidates identified the ‘bradawl’ as a screwdriver. This is an understandable error.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

- As in previous years the centres require to concentrate on the theory associated with the metalworking aspects of the course.
- Completion of recent past papers should ensure candidates are well prepared for the 2004 diet of exams.