

Principal Assessor Report 2003

Assessment Panel:

Technical Education

Qualification area

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

**Graphic Communication
Standard Grade**

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2002	9612
Pre appeal	

Number of entries in 2003	9946
Pre appeal	

General comments re entry numbers

Numbers are continuing to rise with a 3.5% increase on 2002. It is encouraging that centres are continuing to present large numbers in Standard Grade even when there is a degree of competition from Intermediate 2.

As mentioned in previous years the quality of the course, IT content and excellent progression available all add to the attractiveness of the course.

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

Drawing Abilities

Credit	1	49	2	32
General	3	35	4	24
Foundation	5	27	6	16

Knowledge and Interpretation

Credit	1	31	2	25
General	3	16	4	12
Foundation	5	20	6	16

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

For the first time there was a cut-off greater than 50% for Foundation level Drawing Abilities. This was due to improved performance and a more accessible question paper at this level.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Overall there was a slight improvement in performance by candidates. The **credit** paper was done very well by candidates appropriate to this level and there were more very top-end candidates. Most attempted every question in both their **credit** and **general** papers. There was a significant improvement in credit KI performance that may be a result of the change in paper structure to have all the KI questions at the beginning. Candidates are clearly being well prepared at this level.

The lack of a sketching question in the general paper challenged 'Foundation' level candidates, who tend to answer these questions well. General KI performance should have been better but unfortunately performance was similar to previous years. The style of the questions may be a factor and will therefore be discussed at the next setters meeting. As with DA at this level, Foundation candidates find the step up difficult.

Candidates who passed the General paper also performed very well at **Foundation** in both elements. KI questions were generally done well by Foundation candidates but there were still too many candidates who perform very poorly in DA questions.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Credit paper

The majority of the KI was very well done.

Question 5, orthographic

Good starting question as most candidates scored high marks even though a large percentage failed to put in all the hidden detail in the plan.

Question 7, isometric

Again well attempted with more candidates making a better attempt at the isometric circle than in previous years.

Question 8, cylinder

Very well attempted by both Credit and General candidates. This year almost all candidates achieved marks for the development. This was a major improvement from last year.

Question 9, assembly

Normally this is one of the poorer done topics, but this year most candidates did it surprisingly well.

General paper

Question 4 was the only KI question done well.

Question 5

As usual done very well by most candidates, even though the majority still prefer to use a straight edge rather than to sketch.

Question 7, orthographic

The elevation was done extremely well with most candidates achieving near maximum marks.

Question 8, planometric

As in previous years this was done well, in particular the Credit candidates who mostly achieved close to full marks.

Question 9

Most general/credit candidates scored very well in this question.

Foundation paper

Questions 2, 3 and 4 in the KI section were very well answered. As there are such a limited number of learning outcomes in this section candidates are being very well prepared.

The general candidates found the DA straightforward and therefore performed very well.

No question stood out for the Foundation candidates but there was an overall improvement in that all questions were attempted by most of these candidates.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

Credit paper

Question 1, colour theory

Usually one of the best-done KI questions but this year, candidates found this the most difficult question.

Question 6, cone

General candidates could not find all twelve points of the cut on the plan. They also did not make a good effort at the development. Cones are popular topics but they continue to cause difficulties.

General paper

Question 1, CAD commands

Very few candidates (including Credit) achieved full marks for this question and the bulk of candidates only achieved half marks. Many Foundation candidates could not answer it at all.

Question 3, building drawings

Candidates still do not know the names of the basic types of plan used in the building industry or able to recognise a 2 point perspective. In addition very few candidates knew why British Standard symbols are used.

Question 4, dimensioning

The majority of candidates do not know how to dimension a drawing properly, even when all four answers were exemplified in the DA section.

All the DA questions proved difficult for the Foundation candidates. Time was also a factor with many not attempting two questions. There were also a number of Foundation candidates who did not attempt any questions at all.

Question 6, orthographic

It was surprising that a large number of General candidates failed to show hidden detail in the plan. This should be straightforward but it obviously caused difficulty.

Question 7, true shape

Once again true shape proved to be difficult for 75% of candidates. Most did not attempt it.

Foundation paper

Question 1, colour theory

Question 5, orthographic

Even though most of the General and about 50% of the Foundation candidates found this question quite easy the remainder appeared to have difficulty measuring the correct sizes.

Question 8, development

A large number of Foundation candidates just copied the elevation instead of drawing a development.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

General

- ❖ There appeared to be more very high quality candidates sitting the credit paper this year. Candidates are being very well prepared for KI at credit level.
- ❖ There were fewer foundation candidates who did not attempt any questions this year.

Knowledge and Interpretation (KI)

- ❖ KI is being done well at credit and foundation levels but not a general level. Even candidates who are scoring very high marks in the credit paper are performing well below this in the general paper. Most of the general questions involve recall of facts, symbols and names. In particular recalling British Standards is still a problem.
- ❖ Last year a lack of knowledge of building-drawing terms was highlighted as a weakness, but there was no improvement and possibly even worse this year.

Drawing Abilities (DA)

- ❖ Cylinders and assemblies are usually poorly done but this year there was a marked improvement in the candidate's ability to tackle these topics.
- ❖ All types of pictorial views are being well taught as most candidates are doing very well in them.
- ❖ True shapes continue to be poorly done even though they feature almost every year. This appears to be a problem from centre to centre and not between candidates from the same centre.

As in previous sessions, centres are continuing to enter candidates for inappropriate level resulting in too many grades 7 being awarded.