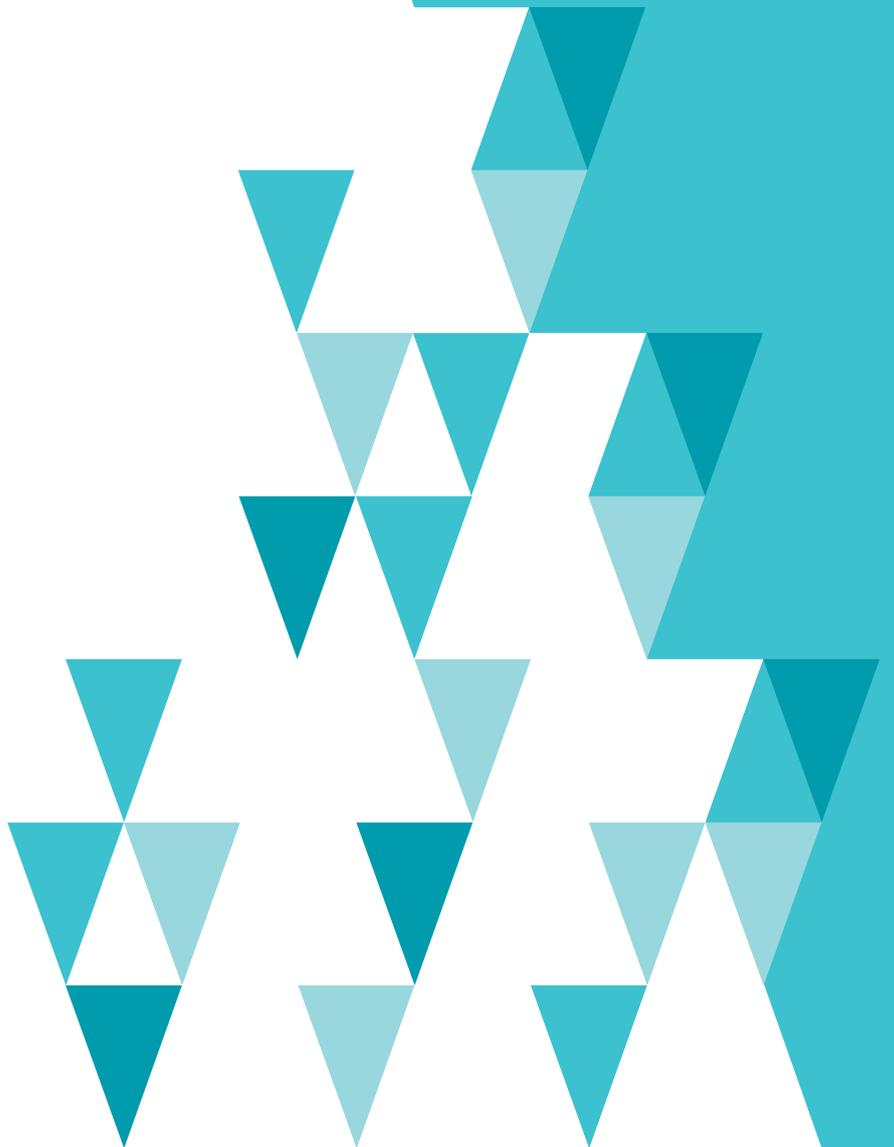


GCSE



**Chief Examiner's and  
Principal Moderator's Report  
Construction and the  
Built Environment**

Summer Series 2018





## Foreword

This booklet outlines the performance of candidates in all aspects of CCEA's General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in Construction and the Built Environment for this series.

CCEA hopes that the Chief Examiner's and/or Principal Moderator's report(s) will be viewed as a helpful and constructive medium to further support teachers and the learning process.

This booklet forms part of the suite of support materials for the specification. Further materials are available from the specification's microsite on our website at [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk).



## Contents

<b>Assessment Unit 1</b>	Introduction to the Built Environment	3
<b>Assessment Unit 3</b>	The Construction Craft Project (Controlled Assessment)	4
<b>Contact details</b>		5



# GCSE CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## Chief Examiner's Report

### General Overview

This is the first year in which candidates had the opportunity to sit up to two units of the Revised Construction GCSE.

The units available this series were:

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project

All candidates undertaking the revised specification were year 11 candidates. CCEA provides opportunity for centres to sit the Unit 1 and 2 examinations in year 12 or the Unit 1 exam can be sat in year 11 with the opportunity to resit the examination again in year 12, should it be necessary.

### Assessment Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

#### General View

The examination paper lasts for one hour.

It is worth 20% of the overall qualification.

This paper was structured in a way that challenged all candidates but allowed the stronger candidates to excel and demonstrate their advanced knowledge of the subject.

The level of language used in papers was considered appropriate by the examiners.

Unfortunately, too many candidates were inadequately prepared for Question 3 and failed to grasp an understanding of the resources required for the construction process.

The variety of questions and progression within the examination paper allowed for differentiation between pupils of different abilities. The mark scheme was positive and accepted alternative and innovative answers to all questions.

Centres need to make more use of the revised GCSE textbook which covers Unit 1 and 2 specifications with the exception of careers.

The layout of the paper was considered to be appropriate.

Grade Boundaries in Unit 1 GCN11 marked out of 80									
Grade achieved	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G
Mark required in Unit	70	61	53	46	39	33	28	23	18

**Q1** Whilst many candidates answered Part (a) of this question correctly, Parts (b) and (c) proved a little more difficult with many candidates giving general duties of an employer or employee rather than those which relate to the Health and Safety at Work Order. Candidates answered Parts (d) and (e) well.

**Q2** The majority provided adequate answers for the role of the Bricklayer and Plumber carrying out work on a construction project.

- Q3** Few candidates were able to list the resources required to carry out a construction project.
- Q4** Part (a) was generally well answered by a large percentage of the candidates. Unfortunately Parts (b) and (c) proved more difficult with few candidates providing a clear understanding of terms “self finish” and “applied finish”.
- Q5** It is pleasing to report that Parts (a) and (b) were well answered with most candidates securing full or close to full marks. For Part (c), many candidates could only state one process that would take place in Part 1 of the construction cycle. Part (d) was poorly answered with few candidates demonstrating why you would use a construction cycle. Part (e) of the question relating to the characteristics of semi-detached houses was very well answered. Part (f) identifying the role of the Quantity Surveyor was also well answered although some did not relate this to a speculative housing development.
- Q6** As an examining team we were pleased to see that many candidates identified the roles of the client well in Part (a) of this question. Part (b) and (c) were also well answered. Few students managed to achieve Level 3 in answering Part (d) of this question. Most of the answers demonstrated a very basic understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of using a steel rectangular framed structure. Part (e) allowed the more able candidates to describe four ways to increase structural stability.

#### **Readability of Question Paper**

The readability of the question paper was satisfactory and the language used appropriate.

#### **Comments upon Mark Scheme**

The standardisation meeting proved useful and provided clarity on how the mark scheme was to be applied. Any minor issues were resolved in a clear manner at the standardisation meeting.

There was no evidence that candidates had insufficient time to complete the paper.

## **Assessment Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project (Controlled Assessment)**

The level of skills demonstrated by the candidates to produce either the table or the toddlers chair was of an extremely high standard. All but a few candidates were able to gain full marks for the tolerances section of manufacturing. The joints associated with both projects were completed to a very good standard. Moderators reported that many centres were awarding marks in the top mark band for finish and it was clear that many projects were not finished to a standard that would merit marks of this level. There was clearly a mixture of different woods used to manufacture the projects and this had no impact on the quality of finish or standard of wood joints achieved by the candidates. It is vitally important that centres do not change any aspects of the design of both projects. Both projects must be manufactured to the same aesthetic design, and measurements must be correct within the tolerances shown as stated on the CCEA drawings. Small changes such as a laser engraving is permitted but will not gain extra marks. The evaluations were mostly completed to a very high standard and candidates were rewarded as a result. The marking completed by the centres was fair and accurate for this section of the revised specification.

I encourage all centres to attend the forthcoming agreement trial in November as the controlled assessment tasks for the new specification will be described in detail by the moderation team. I strongly recommend that centres regularly log on to the CCEA Construction microsite to receive up to date information and support material.

## Contact details

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