

**CPQ ADVANCED STAGE
REPORT BY THE STAGE CHAIR ON CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE
IN JUNE 2026 EXAMINATIONS**

Overview

Total number of attempts across all modules	Number of Passes	Overall Pass Rate
786	632	80%

The June 2026 session recorded the same number of entries as January 2026. With a pass rate of 80%, candidate performance remained strong. Candidates generally demonstrated a good level of preparation and produced responses that evidenced a sound understanding of the assessment requirements. The quality of submissions continues to reflect the high standard of teaching, training and support provided by training providers.

The Advanced Stage assessments require candidates to demonstrate specialist technical knowledge, apply legal principles to complex client scenarios, and communicate effectively within an appropriate professional context. Stronger responses were characterised by a clear and logical structure, technical accuracy, and well-reasoned advice tailored to the client's circumstances and objectives. Candidates are also expected to identify and address relevant ethical and professional conduct issues. A sound understanding of the applicable conduct rules remains essential for success at this level.

General Comments

With the exception of the A4 and A5 Professional Skills assessments, each Advanced Stage module is divided into two sections. Section A comprises 30 auto-marked questions presented in a variety of assessment formats. Section B consists of a combination of auto-marked and examiner-marked questions based on a progressive case study that reflects realistic client matters and professional practice.

Although performance across both sections was generally strong, weaker responses often lacked depth of analysis and relied on generic legal explanations rather than applying legal principles to the specific circumstances presented. Some candidates experienced difficulties with communication tasks, particularly where responses needed to be tailored in tone, structure and content to the intended audience. A minority of candidates also missed opportunities to identify and address relevant ethical and professional conduct issues arising from the scenario.

Overall, candidates who approached the assessment in a structured manner, demonstrated a clear understanding of the task requirements, and consistently applied legal principles to the facts of the scenario achieved the highest marks.

Congratulations to all successful candidates on their achievements. Recognition is also due to the training providers whose guidance and support have contributed to these positive outcomes.

Grade boundaries

CILEX takes every precaution to ensure that CPQ examinations are fair, accurate and set at the appropriate level. Prior to the release of results, the performance of each examination question is scrutinised to identify any issues that may have affected candidate outcomes. The notional pass boundary for Advanced Stage assessments is 60%. Where appropriate, remedial action is taken to ensure that results are fair and reliable. This may include, but is not limited to, adjustments to grade boundaries.

Individual Module Reports

The following module reports have been compiled with contributions from the Module Leads. They provide an overview of candidate performance in each Advanced Stage assessment, highlighting areas of strength and identifying opportunities for improvement to support future candidates and training providers.

A1 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The pass rate for June 2026 was 73%, broadly in line with previous sessions. The result indicates a generally sound level of performance across a substantial cohort. As in all Advanced Stage assessments, candidates are encouraged to read each task carefully, identify the relevant procedural and substantive issues, and apply the law accurately to the facts of the scenario. A clear structure, together with practical and well-reasoned conclusions supported by accurate application of the procedural rules, remains important in demonstrating competence at this level.

Candidates performed particularly well in areas such as pre-action obligations, the preparation and early stages of a claim, disclosure, and costs budgeting requirements. Areas where some candidates experienced difficulties included the court's case management powers in relation to sanctions, interim payments, enforcement, appeals, and Qualified One-Way Costs Shifting (QOCS).

A2 CRIMINAL LAW AND PRACTICE

The pass rate of 75% reflects broadly stable performance and represents a small increase on the pass rates achieved in both January 2026 and June 2025. Many candidates demonstrated a clear understanding of the relevant offences, procedural codes, bail, and special measures. Responses in these areas were generally accurate and reflected a sound understanding of the relevant legal principles.

Weaker performance was evident in relation to the appeals process and the legal requirements for a lawful arrest. In some instances, answers lacked sufficient detail or failed to identify and apply the relevant legal provisions effectively.

Candidates performing at the higher end of the cohort produced coherent, well-structured responses that applied the law accurately and effectively to the facts of the scenario.

A3 PROPERTY AND CONVEYANCING

In the June 2026 session, the pass rate remained relatively stable at 60%. As in previous sessions, several candidates performed strongly, with some achieving marks in excess of 80%, including one candidate who achieved 90%.

Some of the open-response questions, particularly those carrying the highest marks, are designed to enable candidates to demonstrate a broader range of legal knowledge and their ability to apply relevant legal principles to a factual scenario. The effective application of the law is as important as legal analysis. Responses that did not provide meaningful advice or reach a supported conclusion were unable to access the full range of available marks. Higher-performing candidates provided practical advice grounded in an accurate and well-reasoned application of the law to the facts.

Some candidates encountered difficulty with open-response questions concerning landlord and tenant law, particularly in relation to breach of tenant covenant and rights of pre-emption. Weaker responses did not always identify the relevant legal framework or distinguish it from related but inapplicable principles. In some cases, answers focused on matters that did not address the issues raised, while others lacked sufficient depth of analysis of the applicable statutory provisions and their practical effect. Higher-performing responses identified the key legal issues and applied the relevant law accurately and comprehensively to the facts. Other areas of the module specification examined through the open-response questions were generally handled well.

A6 WILLS, PROBATE AND PRIVATE CLIENT

Entry numbers increased for this session, with a cohort of 66 candidates. This module continues to perform strongly, achieving a pass rate of 92%. Candidates generally demonstrated a good understanding of inheritance tax, with some excellent responses achieving full marks on the calculation task. However, some candidates provided strong answers but omitted the final calculation, which limited the marks available.

In relation to the rules of intestacy, candidates should ensure they understand the relevant statutory provisions and when these apply. There were also some very good responses to the communication task. Candidates achieving mid-range marks could have improved their performance through clearer and more structured writing, together with a stronger demonstration of empathy.

A7 FAMILY LAW AND PRACTICE

The pass rate was 88%, representing a strong performance in this session. As in previous sessions, some candidates demonstrated a high level of competence, with several achieving marks in excess of 90%. The relatively modest cohort size should be borne in mind when comparing percentage outcomes between sessions. Nevertheless, the result indicates that a substantial majority of candidates met the required standard. Candidates who combine sound knowledge of the relevant legal framework with careful application to the facts, clear reasoning, and appropriately sensitive professional communication are best placed to achieve high marks in this module.

Candidates should aim to ensure that their advice is complete, practical, tailored to the client's circumstances, and communicated appropriately, particularly where the scenario involves sensitive family issues.

Candidates performed well in relation to marriage formalities, the effect of divorce on wills, legal services orders, and non-molestation and occupation orders. Weaker responses revealed misunderstandings relating to domicile, cohabitation, and section 25A of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. Higher-performing candidates demonstrated clear legal reasoning and sensitivity when addressing issues relating to children and safeguarding.

A8 BUSINESS / EMPLOYMENT LAW

The pass rate remained stable at 87%, representing a strong performance across the cohort. Candidate performance was strong, with many demonstrating a sound understanding of the relevant partnership, company and employment law issues. Weaker responses revealed a limited understanding of procedural matters and, in some cases, a lack of understanding of the distinction between partnerships and companies, and the respective roles of partners, directors and shareholders.

Candidates would benefit from providing greater detail in their open-response answers and making fuller and more accurate reference to relevant company and employment legislation. Where a question requires procedural steps to be identified, responses should set these out with sufficient detail and precision. Weaker responses were often superficial and lacked the depth required to access the full range of available marks.

Greater attention to detail and careful reading of the question would help candidates maximise the marks available. In several cases, candidates did not address every element of the question, which limited the marks that could be awarded.

SKILLS PAPERS

A4 PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: DISPUTE RESOLUTION; CRIMINAL LAW & PRACTICE

Pass rates remained high in June 2026, at 93% for Dispute Resolution and 89% for Criminal Law. Consistent with previous assessment sessions, the majority of candidates undertaking A4 chose the Dispute Resolution pathway. Candidate performance was strong, with most candidates demonstrating a high standard of professional communication and a clear understanding of the relevant ethical and professional considerations. Responses were generally well structured, appropriately tailored to the audience, and focused on addressing client needs effectively.

Weaker performance was typically associated with candidates who did not follow the stated output instructions and failed to present their responses in the required format, such as a letter, email or internal note. Candidates are reminded that the primary purpose of this assessment is to demonstrate professional skills rather than provide detailed legal advice. Successful responses should therefore evidence effective communication, professionalism, and an awareness of the applicable legal and regulatory frameworks, including the relevant Codes of Practice.

A5 PROFESSIONAL AND LEGAL SKILLS: ACCOUNTS AND LEGAL RESEARCH

The pass rate remained high at 90%. Performance in Section A (Accounts) was particularly strong, with many candidates achieving marks in excess of 90%. This indicates that the vast majority of candidates were well prepared for this element of the assessment.

In Section B (Legal Research), stronger candidates approached the task in a structured and methodical manner, clearly identifying the key issues, selecting appropriate sources, and applying their findings effectively to the scenario presented. Areas for improvement included defining the scope of the research more precisely, accurately distinguishing between primary and secondary sources, and ensuring that all aspects of the task were addressed comprehensively. As in previous sessions, some candidates relied too heavily on material reproduced from external sources, with limited analysis or application to the specific circumstances of the scenario.

Candidates who adopted a structured and analytical approach, and demonstrated clear application of their research findings, were able to achieve high marks. The results reflect candidates' continued confidence and competence in undertaking practical legal research and related professional skills.