



## CPQ FOUNDATION

### January 2022 Pass Grade Boundaries

The notional pass boundary for Foundation assessments is set at 60%. The notional pass boundary offers tutors and candidates the opportunity to understand the approximate level of achievement necessary to pass an assessment. The notional pass boundary, however, is not a fixed boundary, and, as a part of its ongoing quality assurance of the assessment process, CILEX reserves the right to amend its notional pass boundary for each examination session.

CILEX takes every precaution to ensure that we maintain the standard and quality of each of its examination papers and is appropriate for candidates. As a part of its commitment to robust quality assurance at every stage of the examination, CILEX also scrutinises candidate performance before final results are determined. In this way, CILEX can identify and address any issues with the performance of specific examination papers and specific questions in each module. Where there are issues in a module that are known to have affected candidate performance adversely, changes will be made to the final pass boundary, so that the standard of the assessment is comparable from session to session.

The pass grade boundaries for the January 2022 examinations are set out in the table below:

| Module | Module Name                         | Pass boundary |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| F1     | Legal Systems                       | 60%           |
| F2     | Law of Tort                         | 60%           |
| F3     | Contract Law                        | 59%*          |
| F4     | Property & Private Client           | 60%           |
| F5     | Professional Skills: SLE            | 60%           |
| F6     | Professional Skills: Legal Research | 60%           |

#### **F3 Contract Law\***

The Results Determination Panel made an adjustment to the Pass boundary for this examination to address a perceived increase in the level of difficulty presented by the examination.

## **Frequently asked questions about adjustments to pass grade boundaries made at results determination**

### Q) Why has the Results Determination Panel taken the decision to change the pass boundary?

This decision ensures that this specific question paper is no more difficult or easy to pass than previous, similar question papers. The purpose of the Results Determination Panel is to ensure that a certain level of difficulty is maintained across question papers over time. This is the best way to also ensure the fairest possible outcomes for all candidates.

### Q) Why can't difficult/ambiguous/easier questions be spotted before candidates sit the examination?

CILEX goes to great lengths to quality assure every question paper it produces. Whilst questions are tested by the assessor teams (comprising groups of academics and practitioners) setting and reviewing the question paper, this is not the same as when the question papers are answered by hundreds of candidates in exam conditions. At this point, questions may be read and interpreted by candidates differently to what was intended. Equally, some questions may be found to be more difficult than first anticipated. The purpose of results determination is to identify where this has happened and, where appropriate, make adjustments to ensure that candidates receive a fair result.

### Q) How does the Results Determination Panel reach its decisions?

The Panel considers significant amounts of evidence about the overall performance of the examination before it makes any decision to adjust a pass boundary. Module Leads' reports, candidates queries, examiner marking performance and past historical performance of the question paper are all considered. The Panel also considers statistical information, including section/question performance both current and historical. The decision is, ultimately, an agreement between the Module Lead for the unit, the Stage Chairs, the Head of Awarding Organisation, and senior Assessment Team staff.

### Q) How can it be fair that someone can pass in this session with a lower percentage than I achieved at the last session where I failed?

OR

### Q) How can it be fair that I achieved 60% and then failed?

Whilst CILEX sympathises with both these questions, it is important to recognise that the standard of a Pass (expressed as a numerical percentage) is where the Panel consider it best placed to reflect the continuity of the Pass standard at any one time. Therefore, it cannot, for the reasons provided above, be represented as a single, stable percentage over time. In some sessions, therefore, it will remain at 60%, but, in others, to reflect the ease or difficulty of specific question papers, the boundary must move to enable CILEX to arrive at a fair decision. It is important, therefore, that you consider your percentage result only in relation to the examination you have sat and no other.

### Q) Why can't 60% always be a Pass?

Because, question papers are subtly different from session to session, depending on how the syllabus has been tested, the choice of questions etc. To simply hold to a Pass percentage of 60% would mean that candidates taking slightly more easy or difficult papers would be treated unfairly. For example, a Pass standard candidate taking a more difficult paper in any one session might then achieve, say, 58% and fail. Boundaries can also be increased if the paper is deemed to be easier. Adjusting pass boundaries, whilst sometimes appearing unfair, has the advantage that we can respond to these situations and ensure candidates get the result they deserve and CILEX standards are maintained over time.