



CPQ FOUNDATION STAGE REPORT BY THE STAGE CHAIR ON CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE IN JANUARY 2025 EXAMINATIONS

Overview

Total number of attempts across all modules	Number of Passes	Overall Pass Rate
1416	1148	81%

The CPQ Foundation Stage examinations are now well established. This session saw a slight increase in candidate entries, when compared to the June 24 session. The overall pass rate remained steady at 81%.

General Comments

It is encouraging to see that the pass rate remains strong and is consistent with previous sessions. Once again, the vast majority of candidates did well, with a small number scoring outstanding marks. Congratulations are due to everyone who passed. Candidates and training providers are commended for the effort that they have put in to achieve these results.

In Modules F1-F4, Section A questions are multiple-choice knowledge questions. Sections B and C use a variety of question types based on simple scenarios. The scenarios in Section C are longer and more complex than those in Section B. The multiple-choice questions in Section A require simple knowledge recall. The scenarios in Sections B and C require application of this knowledge to short scenarios.

The assessments in the Professional Skills Modules F5 and F6 are structured differently. Section A consists of short multiple-choice and other questions based mainly on knowledge. Section B requires candidates to answer questions and create reports based on a longer practice-based scenario. In Module F5 (Succeeding in the Legal Environment) candidates write these reports longhand; in Module F6 (Legal Research) they compile their reports by selecting a series of passages from multiple-choice options.

The Module F7-F11 examinations are structured differently from Modules F1-F4. Module F7, F8, F10 and F11 examinations consist of Section A, which has 30 knowledge-based multiple-choice questions and Section B, which is an examiner-marked task-based written assessment testing practitioner skills.

Module F9 (Introduction to Property, Private Client and Professional Skills) is different again: candidates take the complete F4 exam, with the addition of accounting and technology questions. The format of the accounting questions was changed for the January 2025 session, with the introduction of multiple choice questions asking candidates where they would put items in a spreadsheet (instead of asking them to create entire double entry books).

All questions are marked electronically, with the exception of the longhand reports in Section B of Modules F5, F7, F8, F10 and F11.

Multiple-choice questions require careful reading. Each option has been phrased deliberately and carefully, and the reason why one option is wrong, and another right, may lie in the detail of the wording. Candidates need to take extra care to consider the question that is being asked and read through all the options before making their choice. They should not select their first choice without revisiting all the other options.

Candidates also need to take care to allow sufficient time to answer every question properly across all the sections of the paper.

Once again, candidates should feel very positive about their performance in this session, and the foundation that it gives them for their further studies.

Grade boundaries

CILEX takes every precaution to ensure that the CPQ examinations are fair, accurate and set at the right level. Prior to releasing results, CILEX scrutinises the performance of each examination question to identify and address any issues. The notional pass boundary for all Foundation modules is set at 60%. Remedial action is taken to address any performance issues, to ensure that the results issued to students are fair. Remedial action may include, but is not limited to, adjusting the grade boundaries.

Modules F1-F4

Having increased at every session since the launch of the qualification, for the first time candidate numbers for these modules were broadly stable in January 2025. Pass rates were also largely in line with June 2024, ranging from 71% (F3: Contract Law) to 79% (F2: Tort). In all four modules, there were candidates who achieved an outstanding mark of 90% or more.

CILEX has provided data on the ten questions in each of Modules F1-F4 that caused the greatest difficulty for candidates who did not pass. This information is included in Appendices 1-4 below. It is hoped that candidates and training providers will find this helpful.

Professional Skills: Modules F5 and F6

Candidate numbers for Modules F5 (Succeeding in the Legal Environment) and Module F6 (Legal Research) remained roughly in line with those in June 2024. As before, the pass rates for both modules were strong.

Modules F7-F11

Candidate numbers for most of the examinations in Modules F7-F11 have increased since June 2024, but overall, they remain low, making it difficult to draw meaningful detailed conclusions from the results. However, performance was strong, with pass rates ranging from 83% to 94%. It is worth noting a marked improvement in performance on the accounting questions in Module F9 (Introduction to Property, Private Client and Professional Skills). This may reflect the introduction of the new multiple choice questions in place of the previous tasks requiring creation of double entry books.

APPENDIX 1
TEN QUESTIONS WHICH CAUSED FAIL CANDIDATES MOST DIFFICULTY:
MODULE F1 (LEGAL SYSTEMS)

Topic	Module specification reference
Criminal and civil burden of proof	1b
Jury service	2a
Codified legal systems	4a
Monist and dualist states	4b
“Enrolled Act” rule	5b
Pardon by Royal Prerogative	6b
Interpretation of legislation	7b
Conjoined cases	7b
Nature of judicial review	8a
Victimisation and discrimination under the Equality Act	9d

APPENDIX 2
TEN QUESTIONS WHICH CAUSED FAIL CANDIDATES MOST DIFFICULTY:
MODULE F2 (TORT)

Topic	Module specification reference
Compulsory first registration of title	2e
<i>Res ipsa loquitur</i> (Knowledge-based question)	2i
<i>Res ipsa loquitur</i> (Application-based question)	2i
Who is an “occupier”?	4a
Scope of Occupiers’ Liability Act 1984	4c
Liability and defences under Highways Act 1980	5a
Private nuisance proprietary interest in land	6b
Nuisance: abnormal sensitivity	6b
<i>Rylands v Fletcher</i> : “accumulations”	6c
Special and general damages	8a

APPENDIX 3
TEN QUESTIONS WHICH CAUSED FAIL CANDIDATES MOST DIFFICULTY:
MODULE F3 (CONTRACT)

Topic	Module specification reference
Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999	1a
Consideration: pre-existing duty	3
Past consideration	3
Unenforceable terms under Consumer Rights Act	5e
Rescission	6
Requirements for duress	6d
Grounds for frustration (Knowledge-based question)	7d
Grounds for frustration (Application-based question)	7d
Remoteness and reasonable contemplation	8
Grounds for refusing injunctions	8c

APPENDIX 4
TEN QUESTIONS WHICH CAUSED FAIL CANDIDATES MOST DIFFICULTY:
MODULE F4 (INTRODUCTION TO PROPERTY AND PRIVATE CLIENT)

Topic	Module specification reference
Statements of truth	3e
Death of personal representative	7
Procedure for sale of house with registered title – overview (Knowledge-based question)	8
Procedure for sale of house with registered title – overview (Application-based question)	8
Where are title deeds held?	9
Restrictive covenants: entries in register	10a
Company searches: priority period	12b, 15b
Law society formulae	14e
Replies to form TA13	15b
Form OS1	15b