

CPQ January 2026 Grade Boundaries

The notional pass grade boundary for the Foundation Stage and Advanced Stage exams is set at 60%. At Professional Stage, the notional pass grade boundary is set at 50%. The notional pass boundary offers tutors and candidates the opportunity to understand the approximate level of achievement necessary to pass an exam.

CILEX takes every precaution to ensure that the CPQ exams are fair, accurate and set at the right level. Prior to releasing results, CILEX scrutinises the performance of each exam question to identify and address any issues. 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.

The final grade boundaries for this examination session are set out in the tables below.

January 2026 Foundation Stage Grade Boundaries		
Module	Module Name	Pass grade boundary
F1	Legal Systems	60%
F2	Law of Tort	60%
F3	Contract Law	60%
F4	Introduction to Property and Private Client	60%
F5	Professional and Legal Skills: Succeeding in the Legal Environment	60%
F6	Professional and Legal Skills: Legal Research	60%
F7	Working in Civil Litigation	60%
F8	Working in Criminal Practice	60%
F9	Introduction to Property, Private Client and Professional Skills	60%
F10	Working in Family Practice	60%
F12	Working in Employment	60%

January 2026 Advanced Stage Grade Boundaries		
Module	Module Name	Pass grade boundary
A1	Dispute Resolution and Litigation	60%
A2	Criminal Law and Litigation	60%
A3	Property and Conveyancing	60%
A4	Professional and Legal Skills: Succeeding in the Legal Environment	60%
A5	Professional and Legal Skills: Accounting and Legal Research	60%
A6	Wills, Probate and Conveyancing	60%
A7	Family Law and Practice	60%
A8	Business and Employment Law	60%

January 2026 Professional Stage Grade Boundaries		
Module	Module Name	Pass grade boundary
P2	Dispute Resolution	50%
P3	Criminal Litigation	50%
P4	Residential Conveyancing	50%
P5	Commercial Conveyancing	50%
P6	Probate and Private Client	50%
P7	Family Law and Litigation	50%
P8	Employment Law and Practice	50%
P9	Business and Commercial Law and Practice	50%
P10	Immigration Law and Practice	50%

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

Why has CILEX 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 process 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.

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 questions, this is not the same as when questions 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.

How does CILEX reach its decisions?

The CILEX Results Determination Panel considers significant amounts of evidence about the overall performance of the exam before it makes any decision to adjust a pass boundary. Module Leads' reports, candidate queries, examiner marking performance and past historical performance of questions are all considered. The Panel also considers statistical information, including section/question performance both current and historical.

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 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 CILEX considers 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 exam you have sat and no other.

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.