

**CPQ FOUNDATION STAGE
REPORT BY THE STAGE CHAIR ON CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE
IN JANUARY 2026 EXAMINATIONS**

Overview

Total number of attempts across all modules	Number of Passes	Overall Pass Rate
1536	1290	84%

The CPQ Foundation Stage examinations are now well-established. This session saw an increase in candidate entries compared to the June 2025 session. There was also an increase in the overall pass rate, to 84%.

General Comments

The pass rate remains strong, and examination data show consistent performance across previous sessions in all modules. Some candidates achieved excellent marks, indicating strong preparation by both candidates and training providers. Congratulations to all candidates who passed and to the training providers who supported them effectively.

In Modules F1–F4, Section A contains multiple-choice knowledge questions. Sections B and C use a variety of scenario-based questions, with Section C containing longer and more complex scenarios. 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.

The Professional Skills Modules F5 and F6 are structured differently. Section A focuses mainly on knowledge-based questions, while Section B requires candidates to produce reports based on a longer practice-based scenario. In F5 (Succeeding in the Legal Environment), these reports are written in the candidate's own words; in F6 (Legal Research), candidates compile their reports by selecting passages from multiple-choice options.

Modules F7 and F8 contain Section A multiple-choice questions and a task-based written assessment in Section B. Module F9 includes the complete F4 examination, along with additional accounting and technology questions.

Candidates and training providers should be encouraged by the positive performance in this session; this provides a strong foundation to candidates for their further studies and for training providers in their planning for future delivery.

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 stabilised in the previous two sessions, candidate numbers have increased by 11% in this session. Pass rates have also increased, to 84% - a positive increase from 79% in June 2025 and 81% in January 2025. It is particularly encouraging to see the rise in the pass rate as candidate numbers increase. As in previous sessions, in all four modules, there were candidates who achieved an outstanding mark of 90% or more.

CILEX has provided data on the 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 2025. As in previous sessions, the pass rates for both modules were strong.

Modules F7-F9

Candidate numbers in Modules F7-F9 have seen a positive increase since June 2025. Performance was strong, with pass rates ranging from 78% to 99%. Again, the pass rate being maintained as candidate numbers increase is very encouraging.

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

Topic	Module specification reference
Criminal legal system in England Wales; roles, function, jurisdiction and personnel	2a
The formal training and work undertaken by different legal professionals within England and Wales	3a
Regulatory safeguards and professional ethics governing professional services and client/customer engagement in legal, financial, and accounting services	3d
Role of the law commission	5b
Primary legislation; creation of Acts of Parliament	5b
Exercise of prerogative powers, including the interaction between prerogative and legislative power	6b
Common law; hierarchy of the Courts and the doctrines of precedent and stare decisis	7b
The European Convention on Human Rights and its impact on domestic law	9a
The protection of human rights under the Human Rights Act 1998	9b

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

Topic	Module specification reference
Negligence; breach of duty; standard of care	2b
Causation and damage; thin skull rule	2h
Vicarious liability	3b
Occupiers' liability; OLA 1984	4c
Outline of the law relating to highways; Highways Act 1980; statutory duty to maintain	5a
Trespass and nuisance; private nuisance (2 questions)	6b
Trespass and nuisance; the rule in Rylands v Fletcher	6c
Remedies in tort; damages in personal injury claims; injunctions	8a
Remedies in tort; damages in personal injury claims; eggshell skull	8a

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

Topic	Module specification reference
Formation of a valid contract; offer; termination by lack of time	2a
Executed and executory consideration	3a
Consideration; satisfaction of debts	3c
Formation of a contract; intention to create legal relations; family agreements and clear intention to be bound	4a
Content of a contract; express terms; conditions	5c
Content of a contract; express terms; express terms	5c
Vitiating factors; mistake	6a
Vitiating factors; remedies; bars to rescission	6c
Performance, termination and breach; Force majeure clauses	7d
Causation and remedies for breach of contract; mitigation of loss	8e

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

Topic	Module specification reference
Organisations; STEP	1f
Underpinning land law; third party rights in land; covenants	2f
Technical basics; documents; Requirements for signature of a contract and signature and witnessing of a deed; including e-signatures	3a
Technical basics; documents; assent	3d
Taking instructions, initial steps and advice; initial advice to buyer; co-ownership advice (in outline)	9c
Sale – drafting the contract and preparing the precontract package; title guarantee	11a
Purchase – pre-contract searches and enquiries; local search	12a
Financing a purchase; mortgage financing; the mortgage deed	13b
Report to client and exchange of contracts; pre-exchange file review – purchase; cleared deposit funds	14c
Preparing for completion; preparing to complete – purchase	15b