

**CPQ PROFESSIONAL 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
110	105	95%

This was the fifth Professional Stage examination session. Candidate numbers continue to grow, although in several modules the cohort sizes remain too small to support detailed conclusions or provide extensive constructive feedback.

For the first time, entries were recorded across all nine modules:

- P2 Dispute Resolution
- P3 Criminal Law and Litigation
- P4 Residential Conveyancing
- P5 Commercial Conveyancing
- P6 Probate and Private Client
- P7 Family Law and Litigation
- P8 Employment Law and Practice
- P9 Business and Commercial Law and Practice
- P10 Immigration Law and Practice.

The overall pass rate remains very strong at 95%. Six modules achieved a 100% pass rate, with the remaining three also achieving results well above 80%. It is particularly encouraging to see continued strong performance in P2 (Dispute Resolution), which again had the largest cohort.

This represents a significant achievement. Congratulations are due to the successful candidates and to the training providers who supported them. Both should be commended for the commitment and effort that have contributed to these excellent outcomes. The vast majority of candidates are demonstrating high levels of technical skill and practical competence — qualities that form the foundation of professional practice.

General comments

Professional Stage Modules 2–10 are examiner-marked assessments focusing on individual practice areas. Candidates receive a file of materials on the morning of the assessment and sit a 3½-hour written examination in the afternoon. The examination includes office-style output tasks requiring candidates to draw on both the morning materials and additional materials and scenarios introduced in the afternoon.

The focus is as much on professional skills as it is on technical knowledge. For the longer questions, candidates are graded on three skill areas: Information Gathering (which includes both their technical knowledge and their ability to extract relevant information from the materials provided), Developing Solutions (ability to analyse the scenario and propose an appropriate course of action) and Communication (which can include drafting and completing forms as well as communicating advice).

All Professional Stage modules are marked on a pass/fail basis.

Many modules build directly on skills and knowledge developed at the Foundation and Advanced Stages. Training providers are therefore encouraged to ensure that candidates revisit these earlier Stages during their revision and examination preparation.

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 at Professional Stage is set at 50%. 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.

Individual module reports

Because of the small cohort sizes in several modules, detailed commentary on module-level performance remains limited. However, strong performances were observed across the board, with the vast majority of candidates achieving a pass. More specific comments are available for Modules P2, P4, P6 and P7.

P2 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

This module remains the most popular, with a cohort of 30 candidates. As in previous sessions, marks varied widely, with a top score of 91%. Candidates were generally very well prepared for the Professional Stage examination.

P4 RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING

As in all previous sessions, all candidates sitting this module achieved a pass. The Module Lead reported that a significant number of responses were of exceptionally high quality.

P6 PROBATE AND PRIVATE CLIENT

All but one candidate passed this module. Strong performances were observed across several questions, with many candidates producing high-quality responses.

P7 FAMILY LAW AND LITIGATION

All candidates passed, including two candidates who scored above 90%. The Module Lead noted particularly strong performances from many within the cohort.