

**CPQ PROFESSIONAL STAGE
REPORT BY THE STAGE CHAIR ON CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE
IN JUNE 2025 EXAMINATIONS**

Overview

Total number of attempts	Number of Passes	Overall Pass Rate
112	99	88.4%

General comments

This is the fourth Professional Stage examination session. Candidate numbers continue to increase, particularly for Module P1 – Professional Skills Project, although for several modules, they are still not high enough to form a basis for constructive feedback or to reach firm conclusions.

Of the 10 modules, there were entries in nine areas:

- P1 Professional Skills Project
- P2 Dispute Resolution
- P3 Criminal Law and Litigation
- P4 Residential Conveyancing
- P5 Commercial Conveyancing
- P6 Wills, Probate and Private Client
- P7 Family Law and Litigation
- P8 Employment Law and Practice
- P9 Business and Commercial Law and Practice.

P7 was being attempted for the first time.

Whilst the overall pass rate suggests a dip from the result in January 2025, numbers remain too low to draw any meaningful conclusions. In fact, 100% of candidates passed in four out of the nine modules for which there were entries, with pass rates well above 80% in all but one of the others. Of particular note was Module P1, where a significant number of candidates achieved a distinction. It is also pleasing to see that performance remains strong in Module P2 (Dispute Resolution).

Once again, this is a significant achievement. Congratulations to the successful candidates, as well as the training providers who supported them. Both deserve recognition for the dedication and effort invested in attaining these excellent results.

Professional Stage Modules 2-10 are examiner-marked assessments in individual practice areas. Candidates are supplied with files of materials on the morning of the assessment. In the afternoon they then sit a 3½ hour written examination consisting of office-type output tasks based both on the materials provided in the morning and on new materials, and in many cases on new scenarios, introduced in the afternoon paper.

The focus is as much on professional skills as it is on technical knowledge. For the longer questions, candidates are graded on 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).

Professional Stage Modules 2-10 are marked on a pass/fail basis.

Many of the Professional Stage modules build on the skills and knowledge gained from the underpinning Advanced and Foundation Stage modules. Providers are reminded that candidates should revisit the Advanced and Foundation Stages as part of their revision/exam preparations.

The Professional Stage P1 Professional Skills module requires candidates to produce an independent research-based report of up to 7,000 words that directly contributes to the strategic objectives of their legal practice or organisation. This is the only Professional Stage module for which distinction marks are available, in addition to the usual pass/fail grades.

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

Given the low candidate numbers, there is still very limited scope for commenting on candidate or module performance, apart from noting that we did see evidence of strong performances, even from such a very small cohort, with the vast majority achieving a pass mark.

Because of the low candidate numbers, specific comments will again be limited, this time to Modules P1, P2, P4, P6 and P7.

P1 Professional Skills Project

There was a further substantial increase in candidate numbers for the Module P1 Professional Skills Project. The overwhelming majority of candidates passed. The lead marker reported that the overall standard of submissions had increased and, in contrast to January 2025, there was a significant number of distinctions.

P2 Dispute Resolution

The Module Lead noted that there was a wide range of marks across the cohort, with a very pleasing top score of 80%.

Whilst it is hard to generalise, some of the weaker answers lacked detail, for example on the defences to defamation, and tended to set out too much technical law rather than apply the relevant principles to the facts.

P4 Residential Conveyancing

As in January 2025, all candidates for this module achieved a pass. The Module Lead noted that all were clearly competent and obviously experienced in the field.

P6 Probate and Private Client

All candidates who attempted this module passed, with one mark in excess of 90%. The Module Lead noted strong performance by many candidates.

P7 Family Law and Litigation

All but one of the candidates who attempted this module passed, with some doing very well. Candidates performed strongly in a number of questions and responses were, often, of a high quality.

Conclusion

Results from this fourth round of Professional Stage assessments show that they are establishing themselves further, with growing candidate numbers and strong performances from many. It would appear that providers are now becoming more familiar with the format of these assessments, and it is to be hoped that this will help them as they provide support to increasing numbers going forward.