

# THE INSTITUTE OF CARPENTERS



## 2006 Examinations Report

Examination Board Chairman

Mr D. Riley MIOC

Chief Examiner

Mr C. R. Tooke FIOC

Registrar

Mr D R Winson FIOC

## Introduction

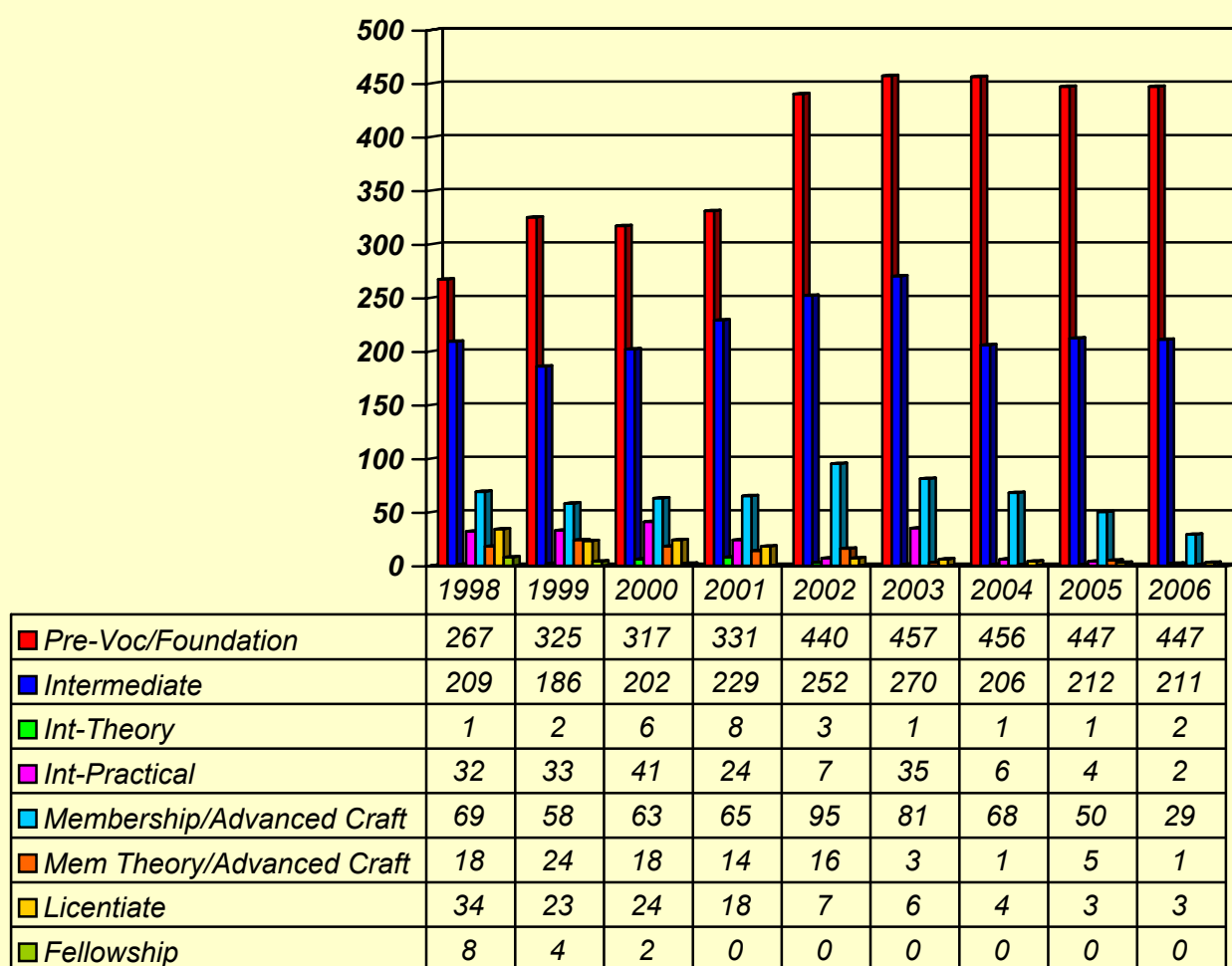
After the completion of the 2006 May/June examinations, the Institute has published this year's report based on the candidates' achievements and the comments from the Examiners on how each question was answered, as well as comments on the respective practical tasks.

The syllabus for each examination is designed to cover all the current topic areas contained in NVQ/ICA/SNVQ courses, which most candidates are following at their respective colleges/centres. Students who enter the examinations must be aware that additional topics are contained within the Institute's current syllabus (copies available on the website), **which are not** included in the NVQ/ICA/SNVQ units.

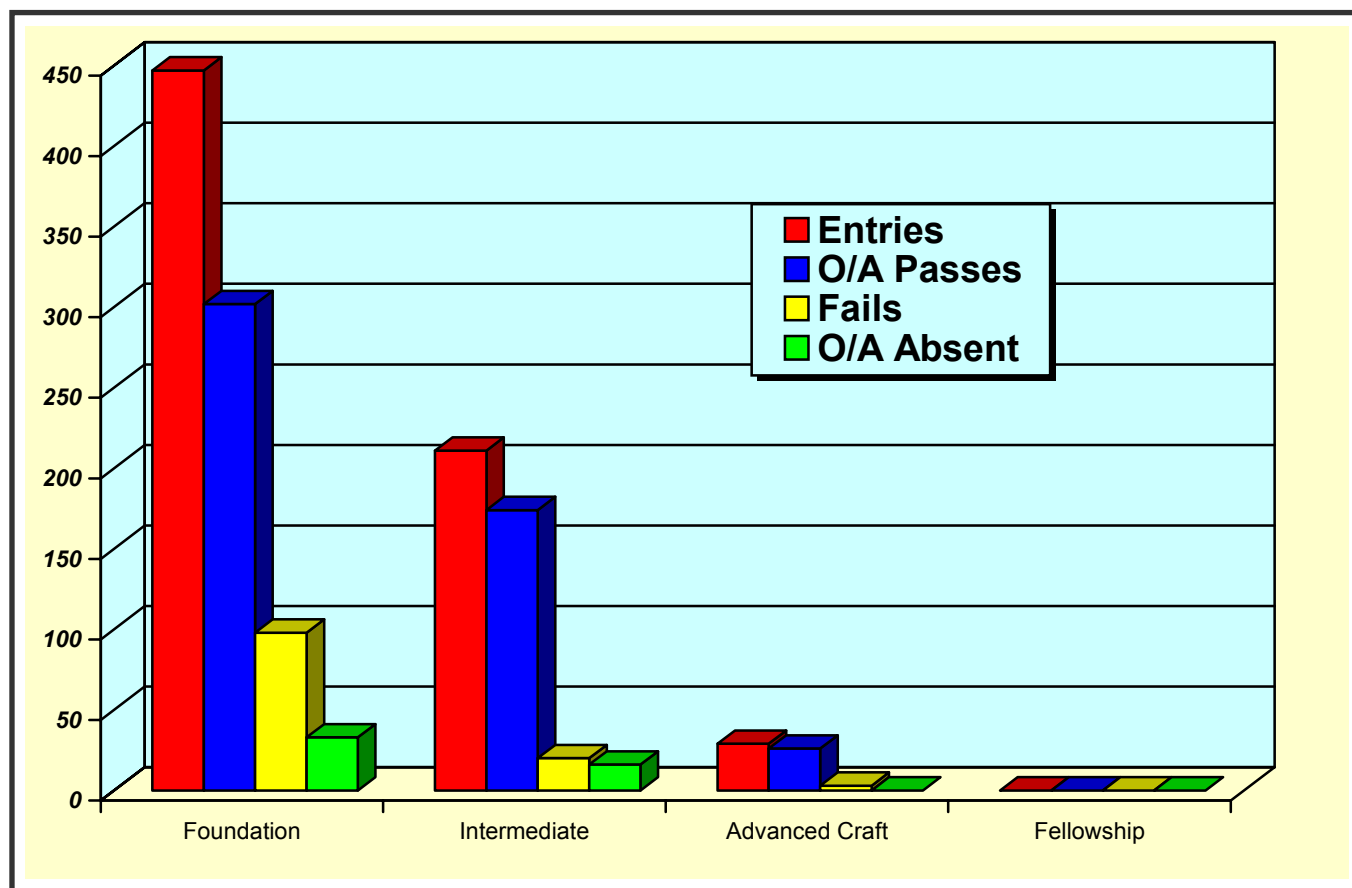
This was evident in questions which required a good understanding of geometrical principles and general sketch drawing. Candidates had difficulty in illustrating answers with clear and accurate details of components, diagrams, plans and elevations.

Furthermore, it has been noticed that many candidates taking the Institute's examinations each year have limited knowledge of a number of these additional topic areas. Candidates **must** therefore be encouraged to undertake self-study to enhance their knowledge prior to taking the Institute's examinations. Past papers are available for revision, on the website.

Below is an indication of the number of entries per year from 1998.



## Number of entries in 2006 for each exam, and the number of passes.



The diagram above shows the total number of entries for the 2006 examinations, which was **695**. Indicating again, a drop in overall entries compared to the figure of **722 for 2005**.

However the total entries for Foundation examination remains the same as 2005, but this year saw a definite drop in entries for the Advanced craft exams.

Colleges/Centres are informed that students who were unsuccessful in the Advanced Craft or Intermediate examinations, or who wish to gain full membership status may enter the December examination. The Foundation examination is available in February and May.

For the seventh year running, no entries were received for the Fellowship Examination.

It is imperative that colleges/centres ensure that completed entry forms for any of the Institute's examinations arrive at Central Office before the closing date for entries. (Exam dates are available via the website)

Additionally, practical mark sheets, and completed theory papers need to be received as soon as possible after the examination. Postponement can lead to a candidates results being delayed.

Further information on running any of the Institute's examinations can be obtained through Central Office.

## **Foundation Examination**

This examination was the first of the 2006 series with the Practical element being held between the 22nd to 26th May and the Theory paper on 24th May.

Three practical assignments, which are set by the Institute and marked at the centres, were repeated again this year. They included a simple task of mortise and tenon joints, a frame with halving joints and finally a small drawer constructed using dovetail joints. However, these are to be replaced from September 2006.

There is no time limit on the tasks but they need to be completed within one academic year. They have been generally accepted well by the centres as an alternative to coursework.

The practical assignment marks needed to be submitted by June 19th. Yet again it was found that a few centres submitted their candidates' results later than the designated date, which has led to a delay in calibrating results onto the computer.

Centres must send the final results as soon as possible, after the final assignment, to Central Office to avoid any delays.

The number of passes in this examination was slightly lower than in 2005, at 75.5%.

The practical job this year was a small shelf support with shaped brace. The joints used were dovetailed and mortise and tenons. The use of simple geometry was needed to set out the brace shape.

The response from the centres indicated that the practical task was more difficult than the previous year.

## **The Intermediate Examination**

The Intermediate examination took place during the week of 12th to 16th June and consisted of a practical and theory paper. The practical task allows the students a choice between site work or bench work.

***Carpentry task*** – required the candidates to construct a small studwork to include part of a serving hatch and lining with architrave and skirting board.

Overall most students completed within the time.

***Bench Joinery task*** – involved the production of a full-size rod and the construction of a splayed window sash.

Compared to the site task, this proved to be more difficult to finish in the time allocated.

## **Advanced Craft Examination**

The Advanced Craft theory examination was taken on 14th June, with the practical examination between 12th and 16th June, and is offered to successful candidates who wish to become members of the Institute.

The theory paper is made up of parts “A” and “B” to be completed in a period of 3 hours. Paper “A” has a total of 18 questions with part “B” consisting of 8 questions with only 4 needing to be attempted.

The practical paper gave candidates a choice between a Joinery practical or a Carpentry practical, both with a time period of 7 hours.

The Joinery paper this year was the setting-out and construction of a splayed panel sash with glazing bars with one aperture containing a ply panel.

Comments from centres indicated that this proved difficult for some candidates.

The Carpentry task involved the construction of a small porch roof which required the candidates to set out to obtain the roof bevels and true lengths.

Centres indicated that this task proved to be within the candidates capabilities and most completed.

### **Fellowship Examination**

The Fellowship examination is offered to candidates who usually wish to upgrade from Member level. However, in some circumstances the Fellowship award can be offered to candidates at the discretion of the Examination Board. The examination consists of two theory papers only. The first paper is compulsory, is entitled "Organisation and Supervision", and deals with workshop and site skills of the Foreman/woman. With the second paper the candidate has a choice between Carpentry and Joinery. All papers contain 8 questions which require only 6 to be answered within a period of 3 hours each. The examination was available between 12th and 16th June; unfortunately there were no entries again this year.

### **Summary**

Once again the results and comments have shown that it is clearly obvious that a number of points certainly **still** need to be improved.

The majority of candidates who entered the Institute's exams certainly need to be more prepared for entry. More emphasis need to be put towards **a better understanding of drawing and geometry**, timber section sizes, wood machining, calculations and in some cases a better understanding of timber technology etc.

As always the Institute is prepared to support examination centres with regards to schemes of work, suggested practical pieces etc, all of which can be obtained through Central Office, or emailing me through the website if I can be of any assistance.

It's a pity that the number of candidates seems to be going down each year and I would like to ask more colleges to try and enter their students for the Institute's examinations.

Funding is available to colleges (see website for details) who wish to participate in maintaining our qualifications.

**Chris Tooke**  
**Chief Examiner *August 2006***