THE INSTITUTE OF CARPENTERS

2004 Examinations Report

Examination Board Chairman

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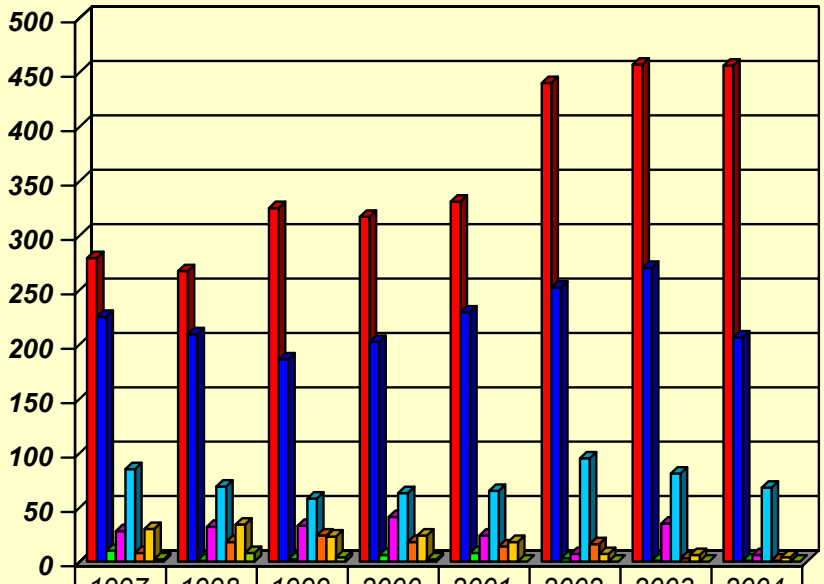
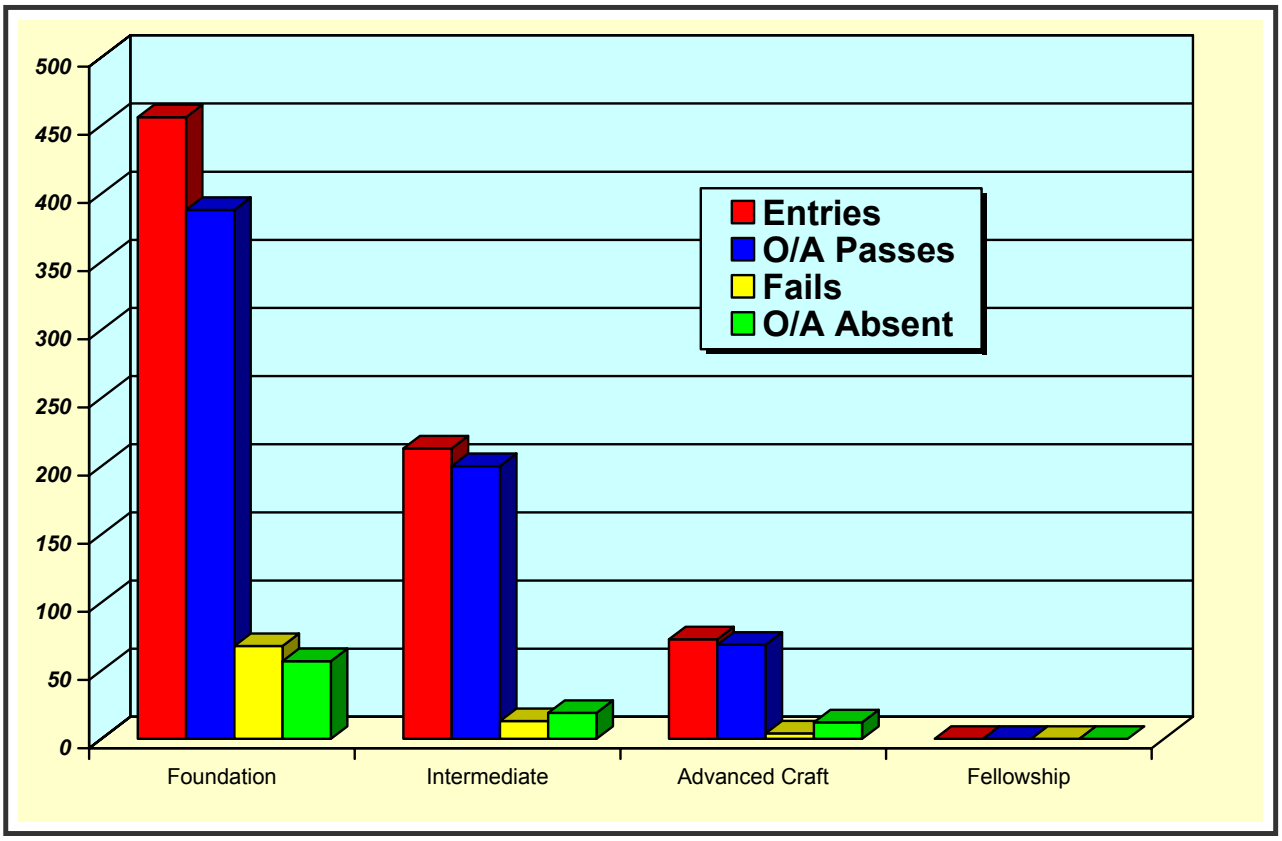
Introduction

Every year after the completion of the May/June examinations, the Institute publishes a 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. Again 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 Institutes examinations each year have limited knowledge of a number of these additional topic areas. Candidates **must** be encouraged to undertake self-study to enhance their knowledge prior to taking the Institute's examinations.



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Pre-Voc/Foundation	279	267	325	317	331	440	457	456
Intermediate	225	209	186	202	229	252	270	206
Int-Theory	10	1	2	6	8	3	1	1
Int-Practical	28	32	33	41	24	7	35	6
Membership/Advanced Craft	85	69	58	63	65	95	81	68
Mem Theory/Advanced Craft	8	18	24	18	14	16	3	1
Licentiate	30	34	23	24	18	7	6	4
Fellowship	2	8	4	2	0	0	0	0



Number of 2004 entries for each exam and number of passes.

The total number of entries for the 2004 examinations was **836** indicating a slight drop in overall entries compared to the figure of 853 for 2003. However there was a drop in entries for the Advanced Craft and Intermediate exams. Once again, no entries for the Fellowship Examination. Some results from colleges had still not been received by the Registrar which may have reflected the final results.

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 now available in February and May.

Entries for the Setting-Out in Joinery and Shopfitting course have not been included in this report, unfortunately due to no courses being run.

Further information on running this course can be obtained through Central Office.

Foundation Examination

This examination was the first of the 2004 series with the Practical element being held between the 24th to 28th May and the Theory paper on 26th May. This year saw the first introduction of the three practical assignments. These were set by the institute and marked at the centres. They included a simple task of mortise and tenon joints, a frame with halving joints and finally a small drawer constructed using dovetail joints. There was no time limit on the tasks but they needed to be completed within one academic year. Generally these were accepted well by the centres as an alternative to coursework, and one centre even suggested a fourth assignment. The same three assignments will be used again for the forthcoming examinations. However, proposals are being made to provide three new tasks for the 2006 examinations. The practical assignment marks needed to be submitted by June 21st. Yet again it was found that a few colleges submitted their candidate's 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 higher than in 2003 at 85%.

The Practical job this year was a small frame to include mortise and tenon joints, bridle and halving joints. The horizontal rail required shaping and halving over the vertical rail. Also included were stopped chamfers on the head and stile. Overall the response from the centres indicated that the practical task was fair and achievable within the time allocated. Some students did find problems with the stopped chamfers.

The Theory paper consists of 40 questions and requires the candidate to complete each question with a short answer or sketch within a 90-minute period. Listed below are the comments from the examiners who undertook the marking of these papers.

Q1,	Tee Hinge	Fairly well answered, not many mentioned ledged, braced and battened doors. Usually garden doors or gates.
Q2,	Manufactured boards	Overall good answers. Mistakes made with identifying blockboard.
Q3,	Abrasive paper	Poor answers including "sand" or "glass".
Q4,	Floor covering	Good answers, although some mention of MDF.
Q5,	Soffit board	Some confusion over the location.
Q6,	Right angle drawing	Most students could construct the right angle, but few actually bisected it.
Q7,	Step ladder	Good answers.

Q8,	Plastic laminate	Poor answers. Not many mentioned about coating both surfaces, and touch dry.
Q9,	Regulations	Some good answers. A lot mentioned signs.
Q10,	Types of gauges	Most students answered correctly.
Q11,	Ordering screws	Well answered.
Q12,	Nominal size	Not many understood the term.
Q13,	Power tools	Good understanding of safety.
Q14,	Joint	Well answered, good understanding.
Q15,	Widow stay	Few could actually name the item, but most understood it's purpose.
Q16,	Wallplate	Fair answers, although some students repeated their answers.
Q17,	Types of roofs	Some good answers, some poor sketches.
Q18,	Formwork	Very few understood the term "striking."
Q19,	Stud partition	Most gave satisfactory answers.
Q20,	Using a chisel	Well answered.
Q21,	Oval nail	Sketches poor, non-splitting mentioned rarely.
Q22,	Storage	Good sketches and understanding.
Q23,	Tee bridle	A wide variety of names given, including halving.
Q24,	Calculation	Most correctly answered.
Q25,	Datum	Few good answers.
Q26,	Mortise latch	A lot of students gave external doors given as a sample.
Q27,	Planted/stuck mould	Poor answers and sketches.
Q28,	Fixing widow frames	Poor sketches. Plugs and screws suggested a lot.
Q29,	Skirting board	Good answers.
Q30,	Plum-bob	Reasonable answers given with fairly good sketches.
Q31,	Pythagoras	Good answers or missed out altogether.
Q32,	Dovetail joint	Some good answers, pencils and rules were common..
Q33,	Crosscut saw	Most could name the correct saw.

Q34,	Cupboard joint	Not always answered correctly. Through mortise, dowel and housings were common suggestions.
Q35,	Timber supplier.	Good answers.
Q36,	Wood boring insects	Wood worm was common answer, but otherwise some reasonable answers.
Q37,	External door	Not well answered by students.
Q38,	Ply back	Reasonable answers and sketches.
Q39,	Architrave	Good answers.
Q40,	Rebated head	Poor sketches and answers.

Overall most students found the paper to be reasonable and capable of completing within the 90 minutes. It was noticeable however, that some students did not read or understand some questions properly. Sketching and explanations by the students need to be improved. Past papers are available for downloading off the website.

The Intermediate Examination

The Intermediate examination took place during the week of 14th to 18th June and consisted of a practical and theory paper. The practical task this year gave the students a choice between site work or bench work. Comments received indicated that students found the site work task easier than the bench work task. There was a small mistake on the drawing with regards to measurements etc, but these were easily overcome. The site task was a small equilateral arch centre with laggings and the joinery task was part of a small table with stopped sinkings in the legs. Very few candidates attempted the sinkings due to lack of time. The site work task was completed by most candidates within the time allocated.

The theory paper was taken on 15th June and consisted of 20 questions to be attempted within a period of 90 minutes. Most students completed the paper within the time period and submitted them for marking. Listed below are the examiners' comments.

Q1,	Problem solving	Reasonably good answers.
Q2,	Double insulation	Good answers to this question.
Q3,	Stud partition	Poor sketches, lack of indication of components.
Q4,	Ladder	Most students gave good answers.
Q5,	Double glazed units	Good answers.
Q6,	Strutting	Good answers and sketches, lateral support missed by most.

Q7,	M/Run	Reasonable good answers.
Q8,	Panelling	Most gave good answers, some mention of pellets and screws. Some poor sketching.
Q9,	Handtools	Satisfactory answers given by most students.
Q10,	Types of timbers	Most students were able to give correct answers.
Q11,	Drying timber	Reasonably well answered, but were short descriptions.
Q12,	Ironmongery	Some good attempts at this question. Some students had little knowledge of chemically activated fixings.
Q13,	Locks	Not many stated mortise dead lock or mortise latch.
Q14,	Staircase	Good answers by majority of students.
Q15,	Roof	Some answers drawn in reverse. Some poor sketches, lack of annotations and mix up with flush and open eaves.
Q16,	Storage	Good answers and variations.
Q17,	Assembling door	Few gave correct sequence when assembling this type of door.
Q18,	Joints	Poor sketches, most went for rebated door frame.
Q19,	Fire door	Majority gave reasonable answers, intumescent strips rarely stated.
Q20,	Casting sill	Poor answers and sketches. Lack of knowledge regarding casting sills up side down.

Overall a reasonable paper with most questions attempted by the candidates. However, being able to answers by sketching or writing is a problem with some candidates.
Past papers are available from the website.

Advanced Craft Examination

The Advanced Craft theory examination was taken on 16th June, with the practical examination between 14th and 18th 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 part of a staircase to a pulpit. Comments regarding the Joinery practical indicated that the job was difficult compared to the Carpentry task in the time given, and a suggestion for the use of power tools be considered in future. The Carpentry paper required the construction of a segmental arch

centre. Comments from colleges suggested that the time element was correct, and students did complete in the allocated time. Both tasks needed setting-out to obtain correct angles, shapes and dimensions. Power tools were permitted for the Carpentry task.

Part "A" of the theory paper was reasonably answered although part "B" again proved too hard for some candidates. Below are the examiners' comments.

Part "A"

Q1,	Door ironmongery	Good answers, although security items often omitted.
Q2,	Hinges	Good answers poor sketches of stormproof hinge.
Q3,	Ballistic tool	Some good answers, not always mentioning training, types of cartridges. Some mention of re-charging!
Q4,	Staircases	Part "A" reasonable answers, but part "B" did prove a problem with some students.
Q5,	Panelling	Good answers, poor sketches.
Q6,	Ground floor construction	Fairly good answers, but use of oversite concrete did prove a problem to some students.
Q7,	Timber conversion	Good answers although some students lacked knowledge of the term durability.
Q8,	Portable tools	Some good answers.
Q9,	Datum line	Some found if difficult to describe. Use of laser level for part "B" was common.
Q10,	Floor calculation	Most gave correct answers. Some candidates showed no working out.
Q11,	Woodmachines	Well attempted but poor sketches.
Q12,	Windows	Fairly good answers, but poor sketches, particularly with storm proof details.
Q13,	Drawing office practice	Good answers.
Q14,	Shelving	Most answered correctly.
Q15,	Haunch	Reasonably well answered.
Q16,	Fixings	Good answers.
Q17,	Roofs	Not many understood Sprocketed eaves.
Q18,	Strutting	Well answered, did not always mention wedges for rigidity of the solid structure. Some poor sketches.

Part "B"

Part "B" of the Advanced Craft examination consists of eight questions with only four needing to be attempted by candidates. However, it was found by the examiners that some students had in fact attempted five. Students did find part "B" difficult and few were unable to provide acceptable notes and sketches. Below are the comments by the examiners of paper "B".

Q1, Machine workshop for stair production (28 papers)
Most candidates seem to have a good understanding of machine shop layout and production procedures, but drawing and sketching could be better and clearer.

Q2, Floor (49 papers)
No comments submitted.

Q3, Types of joints (14 papers)
(a) Well answered really, franking causing the most problems with sketches.
(b) (i) Hand scribed caused problems, not much used.
(c) (ii) Well answered.

Q4, Cutting list (29 papers)
Majority of students did not set out a standard cutting list complete with headings and columns to enable them to record all the necessary information. As a result, sizes of members, no.s required etc, were printed in a haphazard way causing confusion in the calculating process. Many had problems with the M^3 calculation and the positioning of the decimal point. Some gave a reasonable answer achieving a good mark. The rest achieved marks between 8 and 6. If candidates had used the correct procedure and set out the calculations in a proper order, many of the mistakes would have been avoided.

Q5, Solid timber counter top (33 papers)
No comments submitted.

Q6, Timber decay (53 papers)
No comments submitted.

Q7, Roof conversion (27 papers)
No comments submitted.

Q8, Fire check door (30 papers)
Most candidates made a good attempt at question and marks were evenly spread throughout.

Fellowship Examination

The Fellowship examination is offered to candidates who usually wish to upgrade from Membership 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 14th and 18th 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.

The Institute is always prepared to support examination centres with regards to schemes of work, suggested practical pieces etc, all of which can be obtained through Central Office.

INSTITUTE OF CARPENTERS

2004 - Prize Awards

College	Candidate	No	Award
Foundation Examination			
Community College Shorditch	Christopher Amey	04FM203	1st (Endorsed Certificate)
Reading College	David Thomas	04FM437	2nd (Endorsed Certificate)
Community College Shorditch	James McKay	04FM202	3rd (Endorsed Certificate)
Intermediate Examination			
Community College Shorditch	Michael Halewood	04IC052	1st £50 plus Endorsed Certificate
Barnfield College	Michael Billington	04IC002	2nd £35 plus Endorsed Certificate
Advanced Craft Examination			
Barnfield College	James Ougham	04ACC016	Highest o/a Theory & Practical marks in the Advanced Craft Examination. £50, Endorsed Certificate plus Medal. College awarded Advanced Craft Examination Shield.
Barnfield College	Parvez Akhtar	04ACC002	2nd highest o/a Theory & Practical marks in the Advanced Craft Examination. £35 plus Endorsed Certificate.
Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College	Lee Haden	04ACC036	Highest Theory mark in the Advanced Craft Exam. Endorsed Certificate plus Medal. Alf Emary Cup Awarded to College.
Barnfield College	James Ougham	04ACC016	Highest Practical marks In the Advanced Craft Examination. Endorsed Certificate plus medal. Ken Hewett Shield Awarded to College.

2004 Theory Paper Examiners

Mr D Riley MIOC	Examination Board Chairman
Mr C Tooke FIOC	Chief Examiner
Mr D Elliot FIOC	North Western
Mr P Burgess MIOC	East Midlands
Mr R Cooper MIOC	East Midlands
Mr B Barker MIOC	Central
M P Sivell FIOC	Central
Mr K Clarke FIOC	Central
Mr T Eveleigh MIOC	Central
Mr P Walentowicz MIOC	Central

A special thanks to all who offered their services in preparing and marking the examination papers.

C R Tooke Chief Examiner August 2004

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