



EXAMINERS' REPORTS

**LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2 AWARD IN
DESIGNING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

JANUARY 2021

Grade boundary information for this subject is available on the WJEC public website at:
<https://www.wjecservices.co.uk/MarkToUMS/default.aspx?l=en>

Online Results Analysis

WJEC provides information to examination centres via the WJEC secure website. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.

Annual Statistical Report

The annual Statistical Report (issued in the second half of the Autumn Term) gives overall outcomes of all examinations administered by WJEC.

DESIGNING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Level 1/2 Award

January 2021

UNIT 1 - PLANNING POTENTIAL OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

General Comments

The small entry for this unit prevents the identification of any general strengths or shortcomings. Most of the candidates achieved at an appropriate level.

Comments on individual questions/sections

LO1. Understand planning requirements for construction projects.

AC1.1 - Outline protection given to designated areas.

AC1.2 - Describe the planning process for construction projects.

AC1.3 - Explain planning consent considerations for construction projects.

The Board set scenario for the controlled assessment concerned the proposed change of use and extension of two terraced buildings located in a town centre conservation area. Most candidates identified the main considerations and protections arising from the buildings' location.

For AC1.2 the candidates tended to identify the main parties involved in, and the stages of the planning process. As in the previous series many candidates included detailed descriptions of the information required for a planning application.

With regards to AC1.3 the scenario stated that the buildings involved were grade II listed. Few candidates mentioned listed building consent or addressed considerations arising in terms of the design of the extension, choice of materials or limitation of alterations to the existing buildings.

Other considerations that could have been addressed include:

- Change of use.
- Signage.
- Noise from external terrace area – objections from neighbours and possible measures for mitigation

LO2. Understand how infrastructure influences design.

AC2.1 - Interpret maps.

AC2.2 - Describe how utilities are distributed to the built environment.

AC2.3 - Explain how infrastructure affects design.

Most candidates could interpret information from the site plan provided. As in previous series this criterion was not part of the assessment of this scenario.

For AC2.2 most candidates described, in general terms, how utilities are distributed, although the information submitted on gas extraction and electricity generation was not needed. In this case a new broadband connection was required, and candidates could have referred to underground fibre optic, avoiding satellite dishes in the conservation area. With regard to main services, several candidates identified the need for excavation in the adjacent carriage way / public footpath for the new gas supply and sewer upgrade and described associated safety concerns.

For AC2.3 most candidates identified a problem due to the lack of on-site car parking, but few candidates referred to the stated need for a sustainable town centre or mentioned the benefits that the new facility could bring, such as increased trade and protection / future proofing of the listed buildings.

LO3. Be able to report on potential of built environment projects.

AC3.1 - Use language appropriate to purpose and audience.

AC3.2 - Structure reports

Most candidates used appropriate language in well-structured reports, although spelling was sometimes a weakness. In general, reports would have benefited from concluding summaries highlighting points in support of the proposed project.



WJEC
245 Western Avenue
Cardiff CF5 2YX
Tel No 029 2026 5000
Fax 029 2057 5994
E-mail: exams@wjec.co.uk
website: www.wjec.co.uk