

City & Guilds 7202-01: Practical Task Breakdown

To get full marks in your Level 1 Diploma, you need to show the examiners that you are safe, organized, and precise. Here is every practical task mentioned in your handbook and exactly how to smash it.

1. Fundamental Safe Working (Unit 102)

What you gotta do:

- **Manual Handling:** Move heavy/bulky stuff by yourself and as part of a team.
- **Access Equipment:** Set up and climb step ladders and regular ladders.
- **Fire Safety:** Pick the right extinguisher for a small fire.

How to get full marks:

- **Lift with your legs, not your back!** If you bend your spine while lifting, they'll dock points instantly.
- **The 4-to-1 Rule:** When setting up a ladder, make sure the base is 1 unit out for every 4 units up.
- **Check the tags:** Before touching a ladder, look for the safety inspection tag. If you don't look for it, you look like an amateur.

2. Site Prep & Fixings (Unit 104)

What you gotta do:

- **Power Tools:** Use a drill and a jig saw without hurting yourself or the "property."
- **Marking Out:** Use a spirit level and tape measure to mark where stuff goes.
- **Fixing:** Secure screws and wall plugs into brick, wood, and plasterboard.
- **Flooring:** Demonstrate how to lift floorboards and chipboard safely.

What examiners want to see:

- **Precision:** If they ask for a hole at 500mm and you put it at 505mm, that's a fail. Measure twice, cut once.
- **Surface Protection:** Use dust sheets or floor protectors. Showing you care about the "customer's" house earns major points.
- **Leveling:** Nothing triggers an examiner more than a wonky pipe or bracket. Check your level constantly.

3. Above Ground Drainage (Unit 108)

What you gotta do:

- **Plastic Waste:** Measure, cut, and join 32mm and 40mm waste pipes using push-fit, compression, and solvent weld.

- **Guttering:** Install a section of guttering including the running outlet and downpipe.
- **Testing:** Perform an air test on the waste pipes and a water/level test on the gutter.

The Secret Sauce:

- **Deburring:** After you cut plastic, there's always "shrapnel" (burrs) left on the edge. If you don't scrape that off with a deburring tool or file, the joint will leak or block up. **DO NOT SKIP THIS.**
- **Fall (Gradient):** Guttering and waste pipes must slope toward the drain. If it's level or sloping the wrong way, you fail.
- **Expansion Gaps:** On plastic guttering, leave a tiny bit of room in the fittings for the plastic to expand in the sun.

4. Copper Pipework (Unit 109)

What you gotta do:

- **Bending:** Use a scissor bender to make 90° bends, 45° bends, and "offsets" (passed a pipe over another).
- **Jointing:** Solder joints (end feed/solder ring) and use compression fittings.
- **Testing:** Pressure test the frame to make sure it's watertight.

Examiner Pet Peeves:

- **Kinked Bends:** If your 90° bend has a wrinkle or a flat spot, it means you didn't use the bender right.
- **Cleanliness:** Before soldering, that copper needs to be shiny. Use a scouring pad. If the pipe is dull, the solder won't take.
- **Too much solder:** Don't leave big "grapes" of solder hanging off the joint. Use just enough to fill the ring.

5. Low Carbon Steel (LCS) Pipework (Unit 111)

What you gotta do:

- **Threading:** Use stocks and dies (or a machine) to put threads on the end of steel pipe.
- **Jointing:** Use Stillson wrenches to tighten screwed fittings.
- **Bending:** Use a hydraulic bender.

The Pro Tip:

- **Z-Dimensions:** This is the math part. You have to calculate the length of the pipe *including* the space the fitting takes up. If you forget the Z-dimension, your whole frame will be too big.

6. Maintenance & Repairs (Unit 112)

What you gotta do:

- **Tap Repair:** Change a washer or a ceramic disc in a leaky tap.

- **Valves:** Fix a float operated valve (the thing in the toilet tank).
- **Isolation:** Show you know how to turn off the water at the stopcock.

Top Marks Behavior:

- **The "Hush" Factor:** They'll ask you about noise. If a system is banging (Water Hammer), tell them it's because the pipes aren't clipped properly.
- **Speed:** Maintenance is about getting the water back on fast. Don't dawdle.

💡 The "Examiner's Cheat Sheet" (How to stay on their good side)

1. **The Safe Condition:** At the end of every task, the handbook says "leave work area in a safe condition." This means:
 - Sweep the floor.
 - Put your tools back in the box (don't leave them lying around).
 - Put your off-cuts in the scrap bin (don't leave copper on the floor, it's expensive!).
2. **PPE is Non-Negotiable:** If you start drilling without goggles or soldering without gloves, they might just stop the assessment right there.
3. **The "Paperwork":** You'll have to record your measurements on a task sheet. Keep it neat! If they can't read your numbers, they can't give you the marks.
4. **Ask Questions (Smartly):** If a tool looks broken, tell the examiner. "This hacksaw blade is blunt, I'm going to replace it." This shows you're actually thinking, not just following a script.

Good luck, you're gonna kill it! 🎉 🎉