



Examinations – ABDO Level 4 Diploma for Optical Technicians

Candidates sit examinations at the end of Year 1 and at the end of Year 2.
Candidates must pass all Year 1 examinations before they can sit Year 2 examinations.

To obtain the Level 4 Diploma for Optical Technicians, candidates must pass each of three inter-related examinations; Year 1 written papers, Years 2 written papers and a practical examination, which includes a practical project carried out in practice.

Year 1 Examinations

Unit	Level	Credits	Optional/ Mandatory	Theory/ Practical	Questions	Time
Unit 1: <i>Mathematics for optical manufacturing</i>	3	7	Mandatory	Theory	4	1.5 hours
Unit 2: <i>The eye and the principles of optics</i>	3	9	Mandatory	Theory	4	1.5 hours
Unit 3: <i>The properties of ophthalmic lenses</i>	4	12	Mandatory	Theory	5	2.5 hours

Year 2 Examinations

Unit	Level	Credits	Optional/ Mandatory	Theory/ Practical	Questions	Time
Unit 4: <i>The theory of lens surfacing</i>	4	10	Mandatory	Theory	2	45 min
Unit 5: <i>The properties of ophthalmic lenses</i>	5	12	Mandatory	Theory	4	1.5 hours
Unit 6: <i>Spectacle lens materials</i>	4	9	Mandatory	Theory	2	45 min
Unit 7: <i>The properties of spectacle frames and glazing</i>	4	12	Mandatory	Theory	4	1.5 hours
Unit 10: <i>Spectacle lens treatments</i>	4	10	Mandatory	Theory	2	45 min
Unit 11: <i>The spectacle industry & standards</i>	3	5	Mandatory	Theory	2	45 min
Unit 8: <i>Optical workshop tasks and glazing spectacle frames</i>	5	12	Mandatory	Practical	-	One day

Practical examination

The practical examination is based on Unit 8 *Optical workshop tasks and glazing spectacle frames* and is made up of:

A Practical Project (Section D) involving the glazing of a spectacle frame. Each candidate will be assigned tasks to be completed by arrangement with the examiners.

Each task must be timed and supervised in practice. Records of timing, etc. and completed tasks are to be submitted to the examiners. At the end of the time allowed for the project, the supervisor must record either that the task was completed or the amount of progress made within the time allowed. A project which is completed but in a longer time period, or the time taken is not properly recorded by the supervisor, will be failed by the examiners.



Section A: Viva

Two viva examinations (each 20 minutes) on

- workshop practices
- problem solving.

Section B: A practical examination (60 minutes) on:

- the measurement of frames
- the description of frames
- repairs and setting up

Section C: A practical examination (90 minutes) on:

- the verification of completed spectacles
- the use of the focimeter
- recording lens power
- laying off lenses for glazing

Passing the examination

To obtain the qualification, a candidate must achieve a minimum of 50% in each theory and practical unit.

Candidates will only be able to retake a written or practical unit three times, and only within seven years of their first sitting the Year 1 examinations. Those who have still not achieved a pass by that stage will be required to re-sit the whole examination.

Grading

Results are not graded. A candidate either passes an examination, or fails it.

Claims for Reasonable Adjustments

ABDO will look sympathetically on all requests for reasonable adjustments to its examinations from those with disabilities or other impairments, such as dyslexia and the use of wheelchairs, and will do everything practicable within the prevailing circumstances to facilitate their sitting of the examination.

Such claims should be submitted to ABDO Examinations and Registration along with the examination application form, using the *ABDO L4 Diploma Request for Reasonable Adjustments Form*. The form must be signed by the student and must be accompanied by a statement by a GP, consultant, optometrist or other appropriately qualified professional confirming how the candidate's performance in an examination would be affected and the nature of the adjustments needed. If the employer has made adjustments in the workplace for the candidate, a statement by the employer of those adjustments should also be included.

Claims will be considered and assessed by the Head of ABDO Examinations and Registration.