

## BRICKLAYER

The construction sector is the driving force behind the UK economy, employing three million people and contributing 6.4% of GDP. Not only that, the construction industry is central to delivering the homes, schools, hospitals, energy and transport infrastructure our society demands. A career in the construction industry is like no other. Bricklaying is a core function within the construction sector, particularly the house building sector. The Government has a target to build significantly more new homes over the coming years and therefore the demand for bricklayers has never been higher.

 Level 2

 30 Months

 £9,000

Bricklayers lay bricks, blocks and other types of building components in mortar to construct and repair walls, foundations, partitions, arches and other structures e.g. chimney stacks. They might also refurbish brickwork and masonry on restoration projects. The range of sites and projects that bricklayers will work on include large commercial developments, new builds in housing, alterations, extensions and restorations. A bricklayer may work one-on-one or on larger jobs where their bricklaying group (gang) may work on a particular section of a building alongside other bricklaying gangs as well as other trades.

### Entry requirements

Individual employers will set their own entry requirements for their apprentices. Typically candidates will have achieved a grade C or above in at least 5 GCSEs including English and mathematics and hold a minimum of 48 UCAS points, or equivalent.

### English and maths

If not already achieved, the apprentice will have to achieve Level 1 English and maths and take the test for level 2 prior to taking their end-point assessment.

### Delivery method

Various delivery models available to suit your needs. For any enquiries, or to book an appointment with our training consultants, please contact us at [solutions@howcollege.ac.uk](mailto:solutions@howcollege.ac.uk).

## What apprentices will learn

### Skills

<b>Preparation of materials</b>	Determine quality and quantities of building material including mix ratios of mortar and concrete. Areas and volumes of materials and resources.
<b>Safe working</b>	Adhere to relevant health and safety legislation, codes of practice and apply safe working practices, including when working at heights. Safe use of 'disc cutters' and power cutters.
<b>Working area</b>	Select appropriate tools, equipment and materials (e.g. trowel, levels, brick ties, DPC, insulation, mixers, lintels etc) for use when setting out and erecting masonry walling. Maintain a clean working environment.
<b>Masonry structures</b>	Interpret drawings and specifications. Measure the work area and set out level first courses of bricks to a plan, including bonds for openings and the damp course. Mix mortar by hand or with a mechanical mixer. Lay bricks to set dimensions and apply mortar with a trowel to completion. Shape and trim bricks/blocks using hammers, chisels and power tools. Use of laser levels, spirit levels, optical levels and string lines to check that courses are straight, horizontally and vertically and laid to a gauge. Ensure thermal qualities, airtightness and ventilation are maintained. Remove waste materials. Repair and renew masonry structures.
<b>Radial and battered brickwork</b>	Set out and build brickwork, including simple arches and surrounding brickwork.
<b>Feature and reinforced brickwork</b>	Set out and build brickwork, including common decorative features such as oversailing courses and simple corbels.
<b>Other brickwork</b>	Block laying. Cavity walling to include openings, brick inspection chambers, joint finishes, set out a square, set out to a gauge rod and/or profiles.
<b>Building technology</b>	Select materials and resources to be able to set out and lay concrete, drainage and other substructure materials.

## What apprentices will learn

### Knowledge

<b>Health and safety</b>	Health and safety hazards, current regulations and legislation including COSHH/risk assessments and understanding the importance of method statements. Codes of practice and safe working practices, including asbestos awareness and correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
<b>Customer service</b>	The principles of high quality customer service. Establishing the needs of others (colleagues, customers and other stakeholders). Respect the working environment including customers' properties, impact on other trades and the project. Gaining and keeping a valued reputation in industry with clients, colleagues and industry representatives such as suppliers and manufacturers.
<b>Communication</b>	Different communication methods. How to communicate in a clear, articulate and appropriate manner. How to adapt communication style to different situations.
<b>Buildings</b>	Different eras, types of construction methods, insulation considerations, sustainability, facilities management, fire, moisture and air protection. Fireplaces and chimneys. Damp proof courses and the use of brick ties. An awareness of the location of trees and services and their impact on foundation types.
<b>Energy efficiency</b>	The importance and considerations of thermal qualities, airtightness and ventilation to buildings.
<b>Materials</b>	Types of materials, their uses and their value. Types of bonds and their uses. Concrete and drainage. Cost awareness and environmental considerations/waste awareness e.g. surface water management and recycling.
<b>Alternative construction techniques</b>	Modern methods of construction, rapid build technology, alternative block, masonry, steel and timber based cladding systems.
<b>Radial and battered brickwork</b>	Set out and build brickwork, including complex arches and surrounding brickwork, curved on plan, concave and convex brickwork and battered brickwork.
<b>Feature and reinforced brickwork</b>	Set out and build brickwork, including complex decorative features, obtuse/acute angle quoins and reinforced brickwork.
<b>Fireplaces and chimneys</b>	Select materials and resources required to set out and build fireplaces and chimneys using materials such as hearths, plinths, flue liners, chimney pots and other modern methods.

## What apprentices will learn

### Behaviours

#### Positive and mature attitude

Conscientious, punctual, enthusiastic, reliable and professional including appearance. Take responsibility for personal judgements and actions. Be aware of the limits of personal competence. Show drive and energy in fulfilling requirements of role, including deadlines and being proactive not reactive. Show honesty and integrity by developing the trust of customers and colleagues and undertaking responsibilities in an ethical and empathetic manner. Demonstrate awareness of equality and diversity in all aspects of role.

#### Quality focused

Be reliable, productive, efficient and quality focussed in work and in personal standards to current industrial standards. Awareness and consideration of other trades e.g. build walls in a way that allows for pipes and electrical wiring. Keep work area clean and tidy. Provide good customer service. Give consideration to the appropriate use of resources and personal actions in regards to environmental, social and economic factors and their impacts.

#### Effective communication

Oral (including listening), written, body language and presentation. Collaborate with others, e.g. colleagues, clients, architects, contract managers, other trades, clients, suppliers and the public regardless of differences in race, gender, sexual orientation or other characteristics.

#### Self-motivated learner

Identify personal development needs and take action to meet those needs. Keep up-to-date with best practice and new technology. Show initiative to independently complete work and solve problems by seeking out critical information.

## End point assessment

The End Point Assessment (EPA) can only be triggered after 12 months of starting the apprenticeship and is dependent on when the employer and training provider decide the apprentice is ready. EPA is typically expected to conclude within 3 months. The employer has the final decision to progress the apprentice to EPA. The apprentice and training provider should feel confident the learning outcomes have been achieved.

The EPA consists of three elements, all of which may be completed online. All assessment methods need to be passed. Each assessment method should directly assess the knowledge, skills and behaviours of the Standard. The assessor has the final decision.



### Knowledge Test

The apprentice undertakes a multi-choice test to last a maximum of 60 minutes and include 50 equally weighted multi-choice questions with four possible answers each. The assessment should typically be passed before the apprentice progresses to the interview and presentation. The test is to be completed online and requires invigilating.



### Portfolio-based Interview

The interview is for 30-45 minutes and scored out of 100 by the Independent Endpoint Assessment Organisation. The interview assesses:

- Understanding of the portfolio to validate competence shown.
- Self-reflection of performance, demonstrating knowledge and how appropriate skills and behaviours have been applied.
- Judgement and understanding to explain appropriate examples.



### Project Presentation:

The apprentice delivers a presentation to the EPAO on a project they have completed or a process they have improved. The presentation lasts 10-15 minutes, with a further 10-15 minutes for a Q&A session. The presentation is out of 100. The project is completed from month 9 of the apprenticeship and should be completed prior to EPA being triggered. The project is submitted to the EPAO and they provide a question to answer in the presentation, for example:

- How have you improved a process or operating practice?
- What were the steps you took to implement the project?
- What worked well and how would you improve the results in future?