Unit 107: Working with brick, block and stone

# Worksheet 14: Methods of preparing mortar (tutor)

The **mortar mix** will be specified according to the masonry material being used. The ratio of the mix should produce a mortar that is slightly less hard than the bricks or blocks being laid.

Imagine that the site manager on a house building project you are working on, asks you to explain to the client why different mortar mixes are specified for different work tasks in the project.

1. Write your explanations below. **State your suggestion for a suitable mortar mix ratio.**

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| Work task | Explanation to the client |
| Outer leaf of cavity wall for a house | **Material: facing brick**  Medium-hard bricks requiring resistance to water absorption. Thermal movement must be accommodated.  5:1 OPC. |

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| Work task | Explanation to the client |
| Inner leaf of cavity wall for a house | **Material: thermal insulation block**  Soft blocks with allowance for thermal movement.  7:1 OPC (could specify a weaker mix or add specialist plasticiser). |