**Unit 202: Changing practices over time**

# Worksheet 2: Pre-1919 construction methods (Tutor)

**Task 1**: Research some vernacular building materials from your local area and where they would be used in the construction of a pre-1919 building.

Answer: Paragraph including at least three building materials such as slate, stone, brick, aggregates, timber and what elements of the building they would be used for.

**Task 2:** Research and explain how the usage of modern building techniques can have a negative impact on pre-1919 buildings.

Answer: Paragraph including examples of new building materials such as:

* UPVC
* double glazing
* removal of fireplaces
* modern heating systems
* EWI
* IWI
* cement- and silicone-based renders
* sand cement pointing
* insulation.

All can cause moisture, condensation, damp and breathability issues in older buildings.

**Task 3**: Find examples of different types of sliding sash windows from pre-1919. Describe the differences between them.

Answer examples:

Georgian – Georgian-era sash windows are characterised by their 'six panes over six panes' design and numerous glazing bars. Reason:Glass manufacturing did not allow for large panes to be made during this time so only small panes could be manufactured.

Victorian – Victorian-era sash windows, on the other hand, predominantly have a ‘two over two panes’ grid design and run-through sash horns. Reason:Glass manufacturing had developed, meaning larger panes could now be made.

Edwardian – Edwardian-era sash windows were often ‘six over two panes’ in design. Reason:They took their design from their predecessors and used what they deemed to be the best of both.

**Task 4**: Answer the following question about methods of pre-1919 construction.

1. A pre-1919 property has sliding sash windows. The current occupier has noticed that they no longer open. What could be the reason for this and how can it be rectified?

Answer:

Windows painted shut – Years of repainting have meant that the window is unable to slide up and down. How to rectify: Remove the sash, strip off layers of paint, sand, potentially plane and reinstall.

Sash cord has snapped – Cords have perished over time. How to rectify: Remove sash/sashes, re-cord and refit.

Swelling of timber – Naturally occurring, especially if left unpreserved/treated/painted. How to rectify: Remove sash, sand/plane, reseal and refit.

Windows screwed or sealed shut – Often homeowners will fix sash windows shut to reduce drafts. How to rectify: Remove fixings.