

0171-021/521 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture

March 2024

Examiner Report

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Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner, it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres to use in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document be referred to when preparing to teach and then again when candidates are preparing to sit examinations for City & Guilds Technical qualifications.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance and highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat the **March 2024** examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, incorrect examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment:
0171-021/521 Level 2 in Agriculture – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

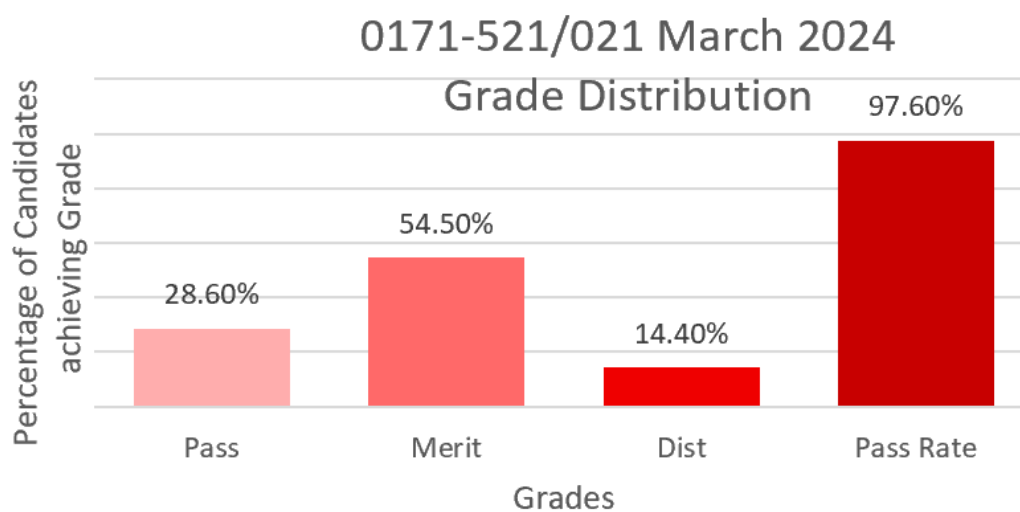
Assessment: **0171-021/521**

Series: **March 2024**

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel:

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	19
Merit mark	27
Distinction mark	36

The graph below shows the approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0171-021/521

Series 1 (March)

The paper was set at the appropriate level and was comparable to previous series' in terms of level of demand and content coverage. Overall, achievement across the paper slightly improved this series. AO1 recall questions in general were well answered. Candidate responses to Unit 203 (crop husbandry) questions showed a degree of improvement though candidates continue to struggle on soil-based questions and more technical terms used to describe crops. There is still some misunderstanding of life cycles and plant processes (Unit 206 Physiology of plants and animals).

Farm animal production (Unit 204) was again answered well, including a poultry question. Working in the Agriculture Industry (Unit 207) received improved responses. Most candidates demonstrated knowledge about technology and understanding the roles of related organisations and job roles has shown a small degree of improvement. The AO4 questions received some good answers. Where candidates struggled with some of these questions, it is important that candidates fully read the scenario and take time to understand it.

In most cases science-based questions continue to be of a variable standard, especially by lower-scoring candidates. The picture-based questions received a mixed response.

The strongest performing unit was:

- Farm animal production (Unit 204)

The unit that was seen to be more difficult was:

- Physiology of plants and animals (Unit 206)

An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates. Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here:

[Technicals in Agriculture and Land-based Engineering qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications/0171-021/521)