

0171-014/514 – Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2)

March 2023

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 2023** 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;
0171-014/514 Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2023

Grade Boundaries and distribution

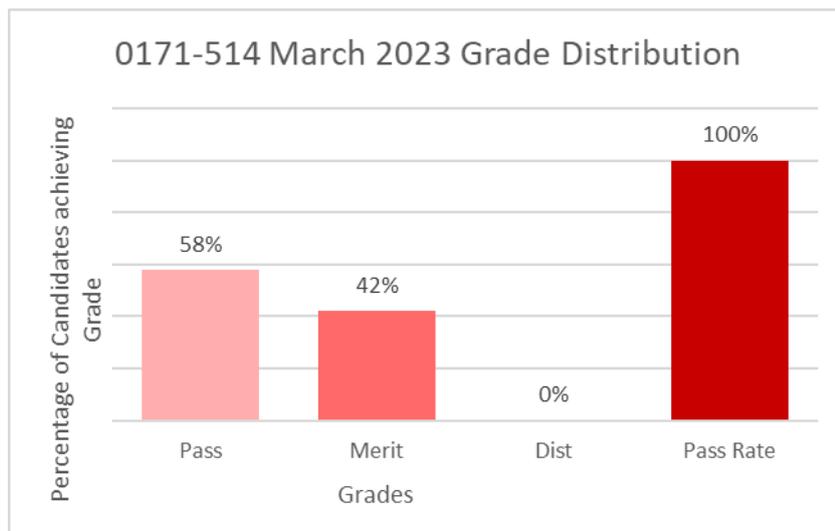
Assessment: **0171-014/514**

Series: **March 2023**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	43

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: 0171-014/514

Series 1 (March)

The question paper was generally balanced and covered a good level of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth, and overall candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year.

Overall, candidates' performance was stronger in the recall questions. Most candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as machinery operation, power units and hydraulics operation. The candidates who achieved higher marks were able to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, backed up by relevant examples and included explanation and justification where needed. Lower achieving candidates tended to give brief and listed answers. There was evidence of candidates not fully reading questions, which meant they missed out on marks by not responding in the way needed or providing the level of detail required to access the full range of marks available. Candidates did not always engage with the command verbs, for example simply stating rather than explaining, this meant that candidates did not always provide enough detail when asked for explanations or descriptions.

Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully, particularly the command words where a named example or a specific number of points may need to be covered.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- Hydraulic systems (Unit 310)
- Cooling systems (Unit 310)
- Control systems (Unit 310)

Candidates require further support in:

- PUWER (Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations) (Unit 310)
- Joining equipment (Unit 318)

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended answer question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of agriculture and farm mechanisation in general. Candidates were asked to discuss procedures to repair the hydraulic system of a seed drill in the workshop. It was evident that most candidates planned their answers in the exam which resulted in more structured responses. Generally, candidates showed good knowledge and discussion of the safety aspects and most answers were well-structured with accurate and consistent use of technical terms. There was a consistent focus on safety, but it would have helped the candidates to spend more time on thinking through the problem and demonstrating more breath of knowledge in other areas.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' which can be accessed here:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/agriculture/0171-technicals-in-agriculture-and-landbased-engineering#tab=information>

Candidates are strongly advised to be familiar with the command verbs they may encounter during examinations and to be prepared for the different types of structures of questions, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.