

0172-531 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate/Diploma in Animal Management

March 2023

Chief 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:

0172-531 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate/Diploma in Animal Management – Theory Exam.

0172-531 - Level 3 Animal Management – Theory Exam (1)

Grade Boundaries

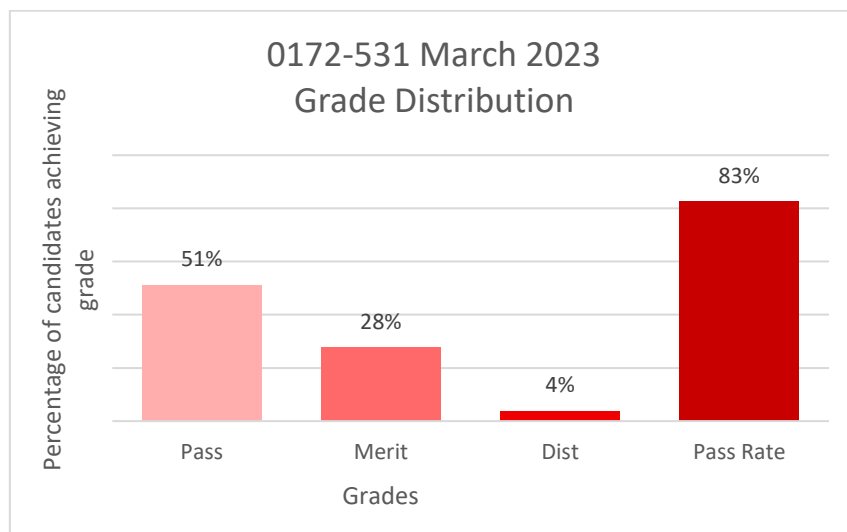
Assessment: **0172-531**

Series: **March 2023 (Spring)**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

0172-531

Series 1 (March)

Cohort performance has improved compared to the 2022 series, with an average mark of 30.9 which shows a considerable improvement compared to the equivalent 2022 series.

Candidates generally showed good recall in most key areas and were often able to gain marks in questions that required recall of knowledge. Although it is noted that there was an improvement in candidates' exam technique compared to the previous series, there are still areas to focus upon, particularly with lower achieving candidates who were unable to provide clear explanations or show retention of knowledge in their answers. Many candidates lost marks in questions requiring explanations or descriptions. Some candidates offered statements or lists of facts instead, therefore not giving sufficient explanations to demonstrate understanding.

Unit 303 – This unit focuses on **Animal Health and Husbandry**. Strengths for this unit were around notifiable diseases, although some candidates did miss out on marks here due to repeating explanations and providing a generalised discussion around the statement provided. Candidates also showed depth of understanding in the application of diagnostic tests. Many candidates were not able to recall key legislation, and many struggled to provide an understanding of the impact of parasites. Centres need to cover all the specification within their teaching to ensure candidates are familiar with terminology and are able to demonstrate the required levels of knowledge and understanding.

Unit 304 – This unit focuses on **Animal Feeding and Nutrition**. Strengths for this unit were seen in food provision. This unit overall was not as successful for candidates, as it was hoped, in that many candidates lost marks due to a lack of knowledge of the function of nutrients and digestive processes. Many candidates were also unable to identify an incorrect diet for a specified common species and therefore were unable to discuss the impact of the of said diet. Centres should, again, ensure technical terminology is used frequently to allow candidates to become accustomed to specific terms and their meanings. Centres should cover the breadth of the specification to ensure candidates have a fair chance to gain sufficient marks.

Unit 305 – This unit focuses on **Animal Behaviour and Communication**. Overall candidates performed well in a number of questions and were able to show knowledge and understanding of avian courtship behaviours, and identification of behaviour types and learning techniques. Candidates did, however, struggle to pick up marks when explaining the impact of a specified season, but they were often able to provide breadth of knowledge in this area. Candidates ought to focus on exam technique and practice providing the cause and effect within their answers.

The extended response question focused on considerations that should be made when assessing the suitability of a home for a specified animal. Many candidates provided simplistic explanations that were not necessarily linked to the given scenario, often offering lists of considerations with mostly basic explanations. Some candidates were able to provide explanations which showed the required level of understanding, allowing them to access higher marks. Where candidates did not achieve the higher band marks, they did not provide sufficient justifications for their considerations.

Centres should ensure they train candidates to discuss all aspects of any given scenario to allow them to gain higher marks. Candidates should answer the question offering the breadth and depth of the topics covered, explain their reasons behind their comments and then either justify or appraise their own comments offering explanations or justifications for their answers. This will enable candidates to move towards the higher banding depending on the level of detail they go into.

Centres are advised to help candidates develop their use and understanding of technical terminology across the qualification. Candidates would further benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this exam to fully understand the requirements of the question before attempting to answer, particularly those that require candidates to demonstrate reasoning. Explain type of questions require candidates to demonstrate reasons and justifications to support the statements or cause and effect.

Centres opting for paper-based examinations should also remind candidates that if their handwriting is illegible marks cannot be awarded.

Centres are reminded of the City and Guilds Technicals 'exam Guides' available here

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/animal-management/0172-technicals-in-animal-care-management-and-equine-care-management#tab=documents>