

0172-045/545 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Animal Management (1080)

March 2024

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 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.

0172-045/545 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Animal Management (1080) – Theory Exam (2).

0172-045/545 Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Animal Management (Science)

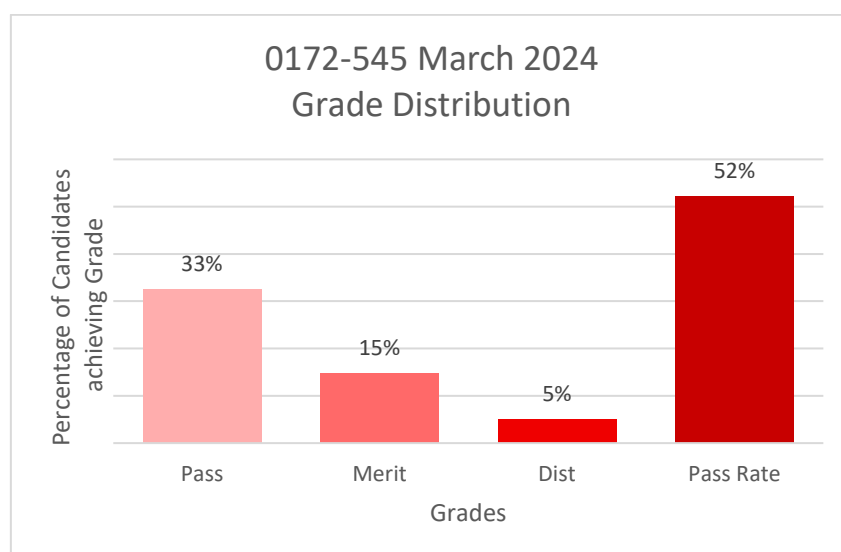
Grade Boundaries

Assessment: **0172-045/545**
Series: **March 2024 (Spring)**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	23
Merit mark	31
Distinction mark	40

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



Chief Examiner Commentary

0172-045/545 Level 3 Animal Management (Science) - Theory exam

Series 1 - March 2024

Candidate performance was varied in this series with some candidates able to provide reasonable depth in understanding and others providing superficial knowledge. There was clear evidence of candidates not using effective exam techniques in questions requiring understanding, which meant candidates lost out on higher-end marks. Some questions were not attempted at all by many lower-level candidates.

The mean mark for this series was 24.18 which compared to 25.3 in Spring 2023, a slight decrease. We have continued to see some candidates access very low marks – quite some distance from any potential pass mark ranges – which may indicate some candidates are not prepared for the exam in Spring. However, the overall proportion of candidates disrupted across the grade scales remains relatively stable from Spring last year.

Candidates do not appear to be able to recall some key elements of Fundamentals of Science or Cell Biology and Genetics and, therefore were unable to access these marks. Technical terminology in these topics was often inaccurately used and misunderstood by many candidates, which again impacted candidates accessing marks.

Overall, candidates need to work on refining their exam technique, particularly the lower-scoring candidates who would benefit from practicing writing succinct responses which focus on what the question is asking. This, and the revision of technical terms, will enable them to show depth of understanding and access higher marks.

Unit 315 - This unit focuses on **Animal Nursing**. Candidates showed strengths in topics relating to legislation. Differentiation across the cohort was seen in questions containing communication techniques and disease. There was varied achievement from candidates when responding to directional terminology, where many achieved the mark in one term but not in the other.

Unit 318 - This unit focuses on **Fundamentals of Science**. Candidates demonstrated knowledge of electrons and PPE requirements. There was a varied achievement in the question requiring the use of a given formula, but most candidates struggled to gain marks in this area. Candidates were unable to recall technical terminology in this unit. Overall, candidates achieved lower marks in the questions from this unit, showing mostly breadth of knowledge rather than understanding from across the content.

Unit 321 - This unit focuses on **Cell Biology and Genetics**. Candidates showed strengths in recall of the function of some of the named cell components. Differentiation was seen in a question requiring an understanding of how structure links to function in a specified tissue. Candidates' weaknesses lay with a question relating to translation and, to some extent, the description of a chromosome. Similar to Unit 318, many candidates struggled to access marks where the questions require understanding or use of technical or biological terminology.

Extended Response Question

The Extended Response Question (ERQ) provided an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the impact of a specified disease on body tissues and the disease treatments. There was a varied performance observed, with

39% of candidates accessing Band 1 by providing generic treatment considerations. These candidates often struggled to expand on their statements and often did not attempt to link to the impact on tissues. Approximately half of the cohort were able to access Band 2 marks, but often were unable to provide the scope of knowledge across both elements of the question or valid justifications to move into Band 3. Only 7% of exam candidates were able to access Band 3 by providing a discussion based on both elements of the ERQ, and valid considerations with some justifications.

Centres are advised to help candidates develop their use and understanding of technical terminology across the qualification.

Candidates are also strongly advised to practice 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 questions require candidates to demonstrate reasons and justifications to support the statements or cause and effect.

Past papers and marking schemes are available on the City and Guilds website which should be used for exam practice.

City & Guilds has produced a technical exam guide to support the work on the exam technique, which is available to download from <https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/animal-management/0172-technical-in-animal-care-management-and-equine-care-management#tab=documents>

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