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

March 2024

Chief Examiner Report

Contents

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:

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

Theory Exam

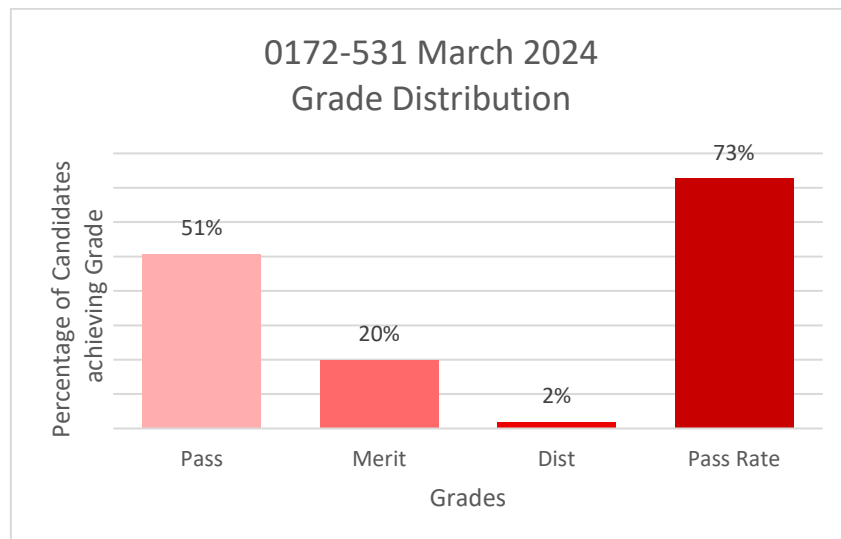## 0172-531 - Level 3 Animal Management – Theory Exam (1)

Grade Boundaries

Assessment: **0172-531**
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	33
Distinction mark	43

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

0172-531 March 2024
Grade Distribution

Pass 51%
Merit 20%
Dist 2%
Pass Rate 73%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

0172-531

Series 1 (March)

The mean mark for the exam this series was 27, slightly reduced from the mean mark in Spring 2023, contributing to a reduced overall achievement across the cohort.

Candidates generally showed strong recall in key areas and often achieved marks in questions that required knowledge recall. However, lower-performing candidates had difficulty providing clear explanations and therefore demonstrating understanding in their responses. Many lost marks in questions that required detailed explanations or descriptions and instead often provided statements or factual lists. Lower-performing candidates also exhibited poor exam technique, especially in questions requiring the application of knowledge to specific scenarios. Responses often lacked specificity and depth, failing to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. Additionally, candidates frequently overlooked emboldened aspects of the questions.

Unit 303 – This unit focuses on **Animal Health and Husbandry**. Strengths for this unit were seen in first aid and causes of disease, with many candidates achieving full marks in these questions. Few candidates were able to provide depth of understanding when describing disease transmission and often lacked the ability to provide technical terminology within their answers. Centres should ensure they cover all the specification so candidates are familiar with technical 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 the recall of nutrient functions. Candidates showed differing levels of understanding of the chemical structure of nutrients and the roles of associated organs within the digestive tract. This unit proved to be differentiating for candidates with some candidates providing basic recall to achieve lower-end marks within the range and other candidates providing clear depth in understanding and therefore achieving higher-end marks within the range. Centres should, again, ensure technical terminology is used frequently to allow candidates to become accustomed to specific terms and their meanings.

Unit 305 – This unit focuses on **Animal Behaviour and Communication**. Overall candidates performed well on a number of questions and were able to show knowledge and understanding of expected behaviours for given scenarios. Candidates did, however, consistently struggle to pick up marks when questions required them to understand technical terminology. Candidates need to focus on securing the recall of behaviour-specific terminology to enable them to access marks across the unit.

Extended Response Question

The Extended Response Question (ERQ) focused on the impact of animal welfare when care budgets are reduced. It is worth approximately 20% of the marks available in the paper and so performance on this question can have a significant impact on candidates overall performance.

Many candidates provided simplistic explanations that were not always linked to the given scenario, often offering lists of considerations with mostly basic explanations based on generalised welfare needs. Around 58% of candidates accessed marks in Band 1 in this series, which remains relatively unchanged from the same portion of candidates accessing this band in Spring 2023 – but with marginally more candidates being more secure within the band from last year. Only 3.6% of the cohort managed to access marks within the higher Band 3, which again compares to 3.4% of candidates accessing the same mark ranges in Spring 2023.

Some candidates demonstrated a deeper level of understanding by providing explanations that considered both aspects of the extended response question, enabling them to achieve higher marks. Where candidates did not achieve the higher band marks, they did not provide sufficient justifications for their considerations.

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-technicals-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.