



# **0170-20 Level 2 Technical Award in Land based studies**

**2022**

**Qualification Report**

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# Foreword

## Results August 2022

As you will likely be aware, Ofqual has announced that grading for General Qualifications this summer will be more generous than prior to the pandemic. This is partly due to managing the impact of disruption and learning loss on learner performance and also managing fairness between learners in different years who had different methods of determining their grades. Therefore, for A levels and GCSEs, grading will seek a midway position between 2019 and 2021, meaning, in general, results will be somewhat higher than prior to the pandemic. This year, 2022, is a transitional year and outcomes and standards will likely return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

Similarly, for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs), this summer will be a transitional year and Ofqual has now been clear that for VTQs “we should expect that this summer’s results will look different, despite exams and assessments taking a big step towards normality.” Ofqual has published a blog [What’s behind this summer’s VTQ results](#).

In acknowledgement of the disruption to learning and to support fairness for all learners certificating this summer (some of whom will be competing against learners taking General Qualifications for the same progression and higher education opportunities), we will be taking loss of learning into consideration, whilst still acknowledging the need to uphold the validity of the qualifications. On this basis, we have made the decision to apply a form of ‘safety net’ through some additional ‘generosity’ to both the theory examinations and synoptic assignments within our Technical Qualifications wherever appropriate, (noting that it may not be appropriate to apply where there is a clear impact on knowledge and skills to practice, particularly health and safety requirements or other relevant legislation). We are therefore also reviewing candidate work a few marks below (equivalent to 5% of maximum marks) the Pass and Distinction notional boundaries – the boundaries used during the awarding process as the best representation of maintaining the performance standard from 2019.

The reason for lowering boundaries, where appropriate, by 5% of the maximum marks available, is that it is broadly commensurate with the level of generosity learners are likely to see in General Qualifications at level 2 and level 3. Providing that senior examiners can support the quality of learners’ work seen below the notional boundaries and agree it is sufficient to maintain the integrity, meaning and credibility of the qualifications, the grade boundaries will be lowered across the full set of grades – eg Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction Star.

Given the circumstances, this is the best approach to take into account the disruption to teaching and learning across every learner in a fair and transparent way, and at the same time maintain the integrity and meaning of qualifications. This approach helps to level our Technical Qualifications awarding approach with that adopted for General Qualifications and other qualifications awarded in England and in the wider UK.

## Spring examination series 2022

Having taken this decision, we are also mindful of learners who have taken components in **Spring 2022** and believe they should also have access to the same level of generosity. For these learners, we wish to adopt a similar approach. Therefore, for learners taking Technical Qualification assessments in spring there will be similar generosity, through the addition of 5% of the maximum mark available for the assessment. It is a different mechanism to that we are using for the summer assessments but provides the same level of generosity to those learners taking assessments in the summer.

# Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

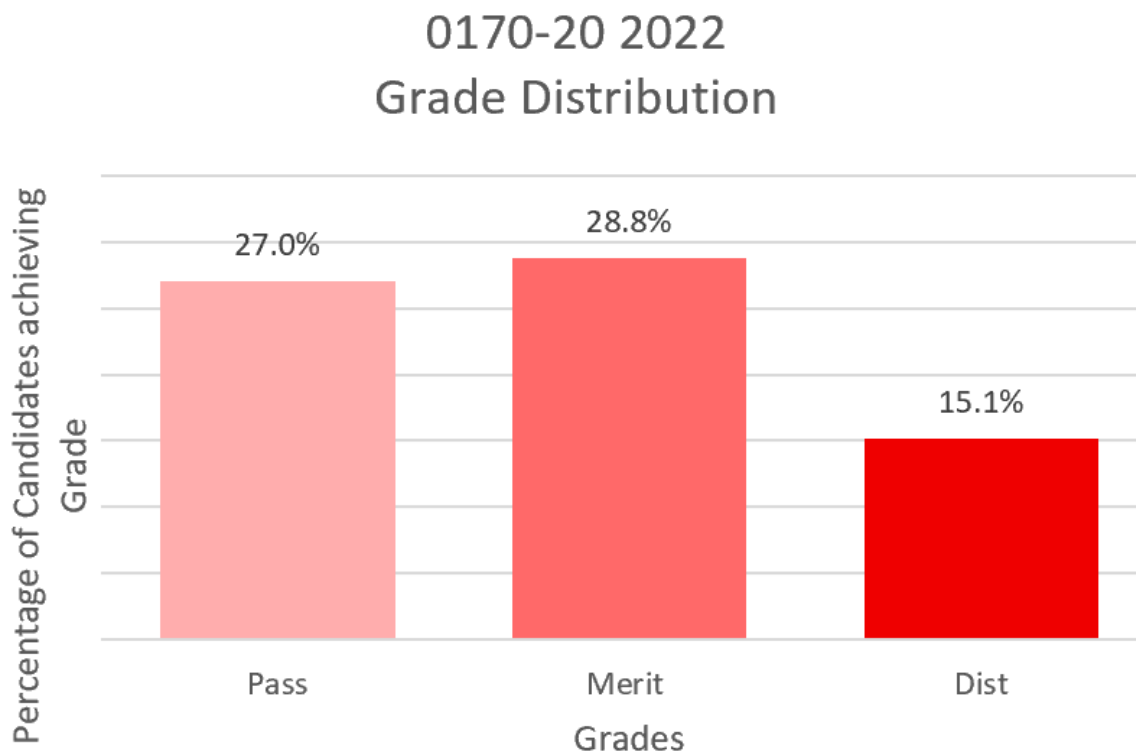
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2022 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 0170-001/501 Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies – Theory exam
  - March 2022 (Spring)
  - June 2022 (Summer)
- 0170-002 Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies – Synoptic Assignment.

# Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



This data is based on the distribution as of August 2022.

Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.

# Theory Exam

## Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0170-001/501  
Series: March 2022 (Spring)

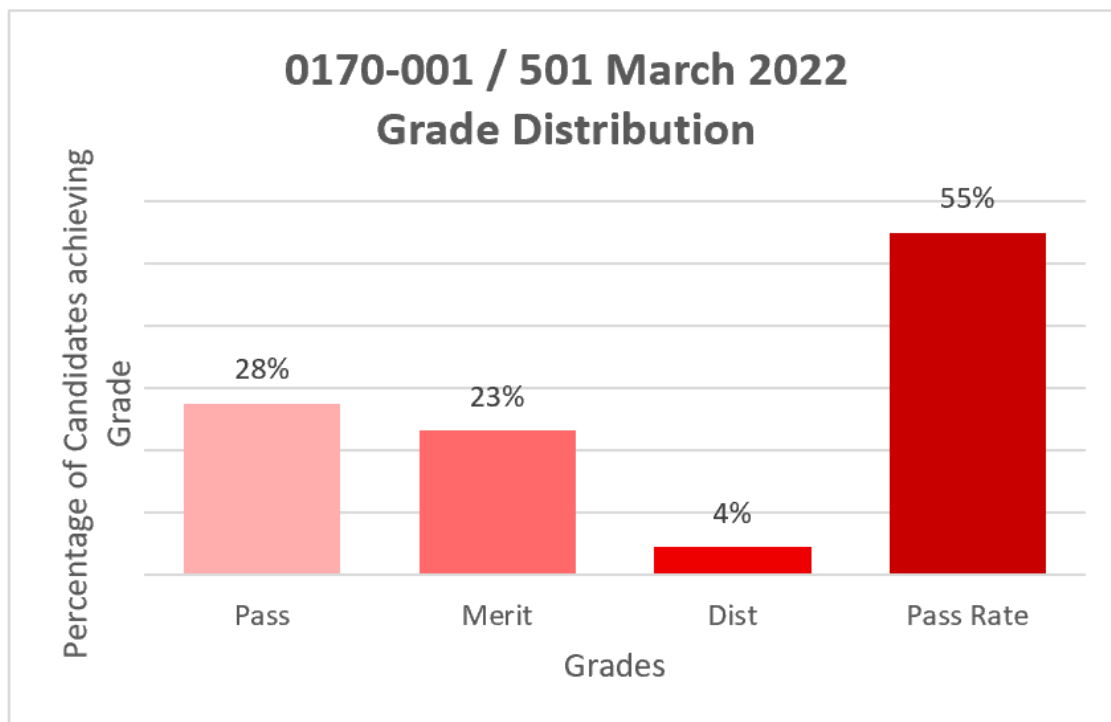
### Boundary Table (For spring examinations)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	41

The generosity applied to the summer assessments will also retrospectively be applied to candidates who achieved their best result in spring. 5% of the base mark of the assessment will be added to their score rather than applied to boundaries.

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment, it does not account of any marks that have been amended due to generosity:

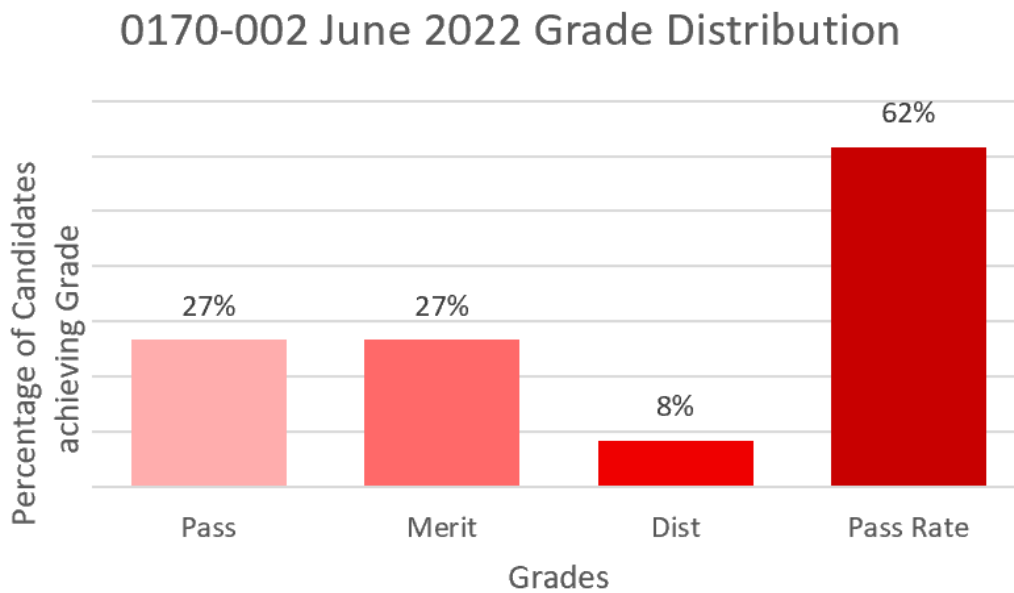


**Boundary Table (for summer series and synoptics)**

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	21
Merit mark	29
Distinction mark	38

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



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 0171-501 Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies - Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2022

The question paper had an appropriate balance and coverage of questions with plenty of scope for the more able candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

The standard of the candidates' responses was as expected in line with the varied levels. Most candidates performed well on recall questions. There was evidence of candidates not properly reading questions, which meant they missed out on marks. Candidates also did not always engage with the command verbs, for example stating rather than explaining. This meant they did not always provide enough detail when asked for explanations or descriptions.

The animal-based questions were well answered. However, there was some confusion around what was a pest and the effect of that pest on plants. Most candidates struggled on the effect of good nutrition on animals. Very few candidates were able to describe four reasons and many provided very confusing answers around getting animals hydrated and enough sunlight.

For the extended response question, candidates were asked to discuss the challenge of feeding an increasing UK population. A few candidates gave some excellent well thought out answers to this question, exploring a range of challenges and solutions to feeding an increasing population in the UK. Many recognised the rise in food prices and how this is going to affect growing and transporting food and the knock-on effect of pollution and climate. Some very good recommendations were explored from vertical farming to intensifying food production. Interestingly, there were quite a few answers that focused on getting enough workers and educating the public on eating seasonal food.

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

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/agriculture/0170-technical-award-in-land-based-studies#tab=information>

Centres are strongly advised to be familiar with the command verbs their learners may encounter during examinations and the type of responses expected, along with an indication of the qualities that will be looked for during marking.



## Series 2 – June 2022

### General Feedback

The overall answers from candidates were generally of an average standard.

This proved to be a challenging paper, with quite a few questions that were misunderstood by candidates.

There was evidence that some planning went into the long answer questions with some well thought out examples, although there were some answers where a lot of repetition occurred. The short answer questions were well worded and contained a range of land-based subjects giving a fair chance of achieving good marks, although some of the topics did seem to challenge candidates. Candidates also tended to lose marks on misinterpreting what the question was asking.

The question on energy production systems and harvesting machinery were well answered. Generally, the animal-based questions were poorly answered due to the misunderstanding of the word 'clinical'. With regards to question on actions that shaped the countryside since 1600, candidates found this particularly difficult, along with the question on the benefits to the environment from the stewardship schemes.

The question on listing the major nutrients that plants needed was also poorly answered. Candidates tended to list factors that plants needed to grow e.g. sunlight, water. However, the other plant-based questions on factors affecting germination and consequences of weeds in a crop were generally well answered.

### Extended response questions

A few candidates gave some excellent, well thought out answers to this question, exploring a range of challenges and conflicts that arise when using land for food production. The better answers explored the economies of growing food, the price of fertiliser and the affect the war in Ukraine is having on food prices. There was also some excellent discussion on the environmental effects and the conflict of using land to build houses rather than using it to feed a growing population. The poorer answers tended to be repetitive, contained very little detail and discussed only one or two examples.

Some good evidence of planning for this type of question, but quite a few candidates would have benefitted from more planning.

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

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/agriculture/0170-technical-award-in-land-based-studies#tab=information>

Centres are strongly advised to be familiar with the command verbs their learners may encounter during examinations and the type of responses expected, along with an indication of the qualities that will be looked for during marking.

# Synoptic Assignment

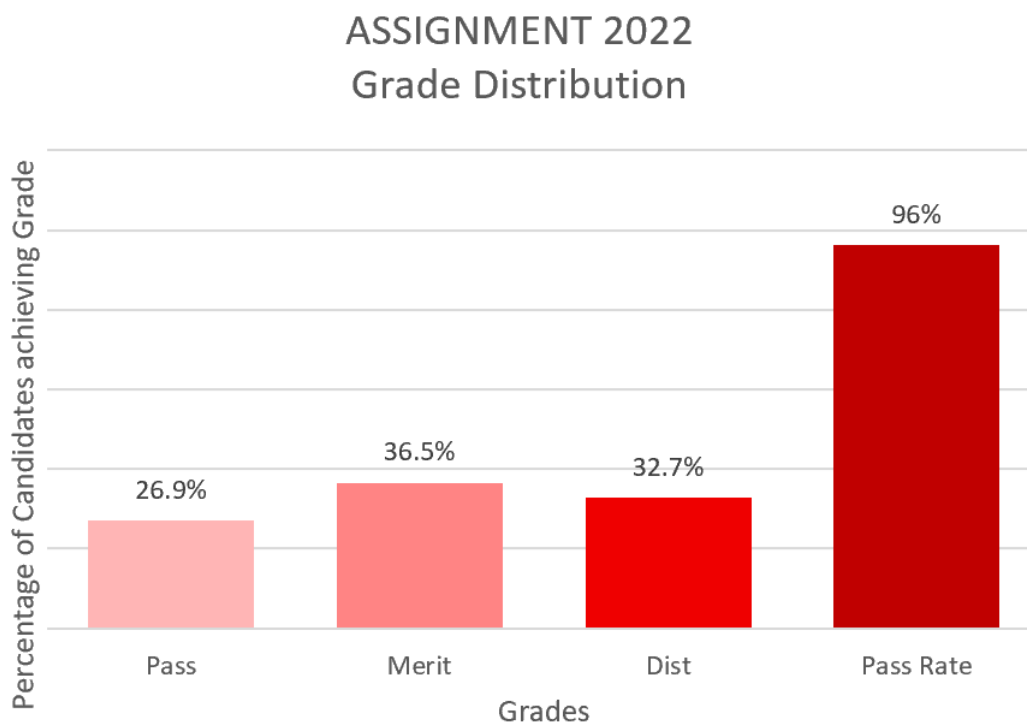
## Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0170-002  
Series: 2022

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	20
Merit mark	29
Distinction mark	39

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



## **Principal Moderator Commentary**

The synoptic assignment contained a wide spread of tasks allowing centres to give candidates every opportunity to achieve to their full potential.

Candidates showed a wide range of abilities throughout all AOs. Overall, a good attempt was made on the written elements of the synoptic assignment with a wide range of quality within the work, as you would expect for Level 2 candidates. A lot of very good work has been completed.

Practical tasks were of a good standard, with candidates showing a good ability. Health checks and feeding logs were carried out to varying standards of detail.

Centres are asked to be mindful of the final submission date. Centres are reminded that candidates' synoptic assignments may be uploaded in advance of this deadline as soon as work is completed. This would support the moderation process to ensure that any errors are promptly flagged up and that centres have the opportunity to correct errors well in advance of the final submission dates.