

0170-001/501 – Level 2 Technical Award in Land based studies – Theory exam (1)

March 2022

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 2022** 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;
0170-501 Land based studies – Theory exam (1).

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

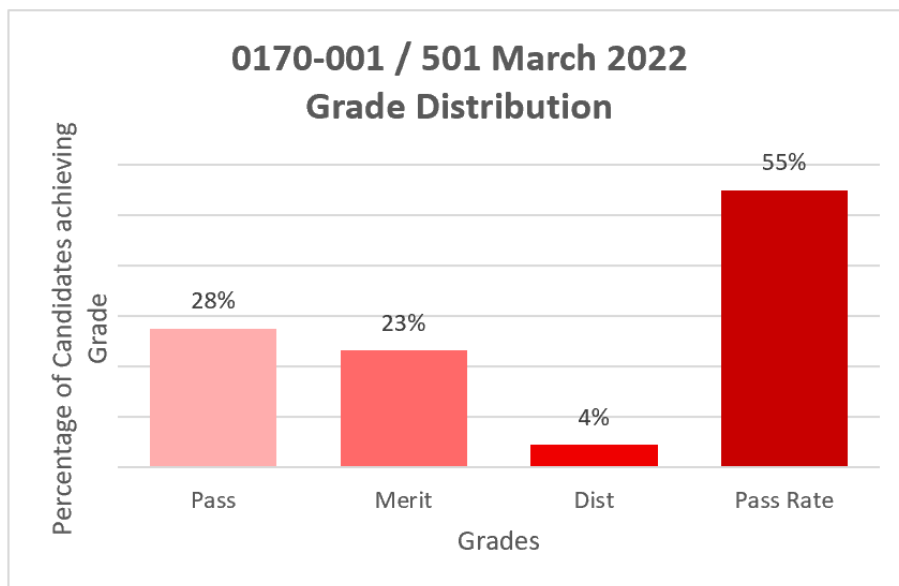
Assessment: **0170-001/501**

Series: **March 2022**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	41

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: 0170-001/501

Series 1 (March)

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 candidate's 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.

Overall, candidates showed **strength** in:

- Exploring the use of land (Unit 201)
- Animal and plant physiology, nutrition and health (Unit 202)

Candidates appear to require further **support** in:

- How land use has changed (Unit 201)
- Transpiration and soil types (Unit 202)

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.