0170-20 Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies

2023

Qualification Report

Contents

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.
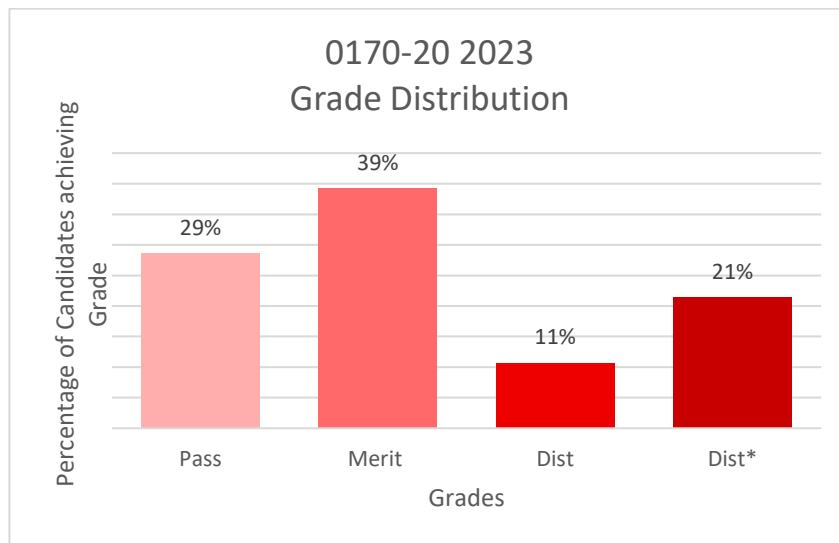
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2023 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 2023 (Spring)
  - June 2023 (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 21 August 2023.

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.
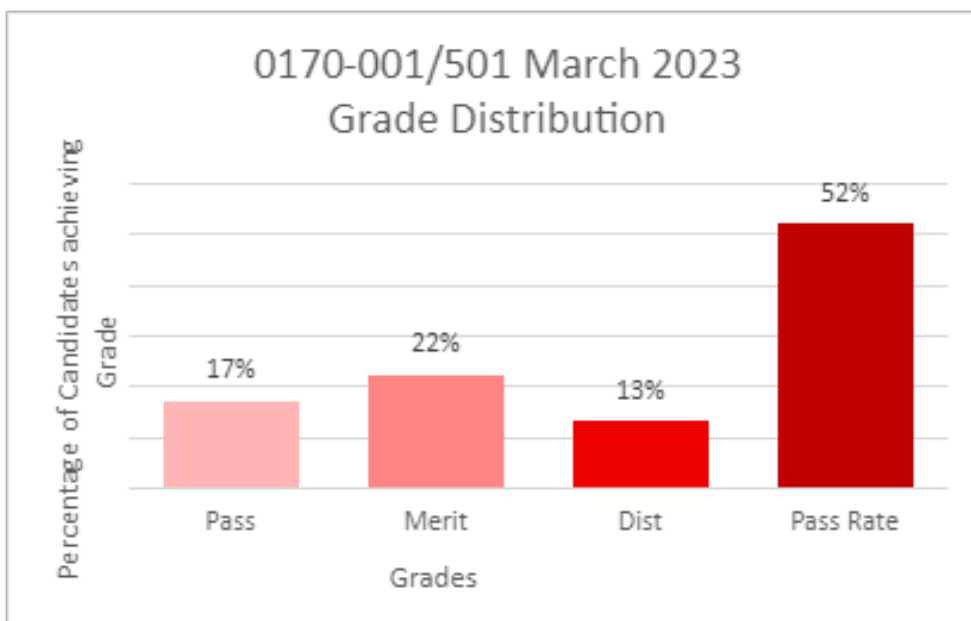
Theory Exam

Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0170-001/501
Series: March 2023 (Spring)

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 distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:
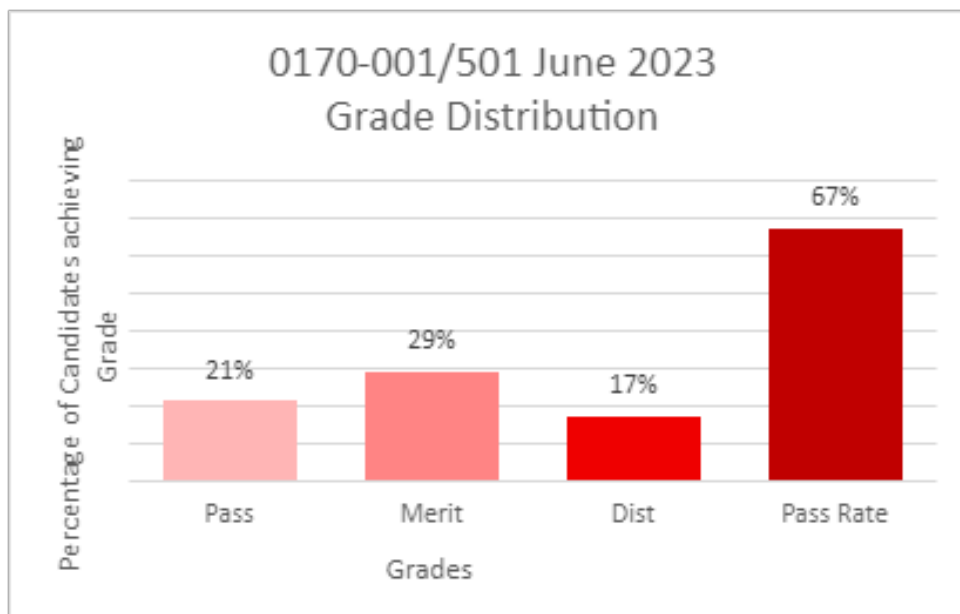
Assessment: 0170-001/501
Series: June 2023 (Summer)

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 distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:

Chief Examiner Commentary

0170-001/501 Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies - Theory exam

Series 1 – March 2023

The question paper was balanced and covered a good range of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth and overall, candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year.

Candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge across a number of topics, gaining marks in areas such as forestry production systems and electronic tracking of animals. Candidates tended to score very well on the AO1 animal related questions but demonstrated a weakness in recall of plant nutrients. It was evident that a number of questions were interpreted incorrectly by some candidates, resulting in misunderstanding what was being asked or the question not being attempted.

AO2 questions responses were varied across the cohort. The candidates who achieved higher marks were able to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, backed up by relevant examples and including explanation and justification where needed. Lower achieving candidates tended to give brief answers. There was evidence of some candidates not fully reading questions, which meant they missed out on marks by not responding in the way needed or providing the level of detail required to access the full range of marks available at AO2.

Candidates did not always engage with the command verbs, for example simply stating rather than explaining, and this meant that candidates did not always provide enough detail when asked for explanations or descriptions. Candidates should be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully, particularly the command words where a named example or a specific number of points may need to be given.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:
- Geographical use of land (Unit 201)
- Common diseases, signs, prevention and treatment (Unit 202)
- Tracking and trapping devices (Unit 203)

Candidates require further support in:
- Government and non-government agencies (Unit 201)
- Nutritional requirements of plants (Unit 202)

Extended Response Question (ERQ)
The extended answer question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp and knowledge across the qualification. Candidates were asked to discuss the impact of using land for leisure. The responses to the ERQ explored a range of impacts which were both positive and negative, including pollution from litter and increased traffic, the effect on wildlife and biodiversity, noise and light pollution and opportunities for employment. Higher-level candidates also discussed environmental solutions to some of the problems like providing park and ride schemes and discussed the positive impact on the mental health of people. There were some well-developed answers with excellent use of examples and higher-level candidates were able to discuss a range of considerations.

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

Candidates are strongly advised to be familiar with the command verbs they may encounter during examinations and to be prepared for the different types of structures of questions, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.

Series 2 – June 2023

The question paper was balanced and covered a good range of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. The majority of candidates demonstrated a good level of understanding of the Land Based industry with a good grasp of technical terms and only a few misinterpretations.

Candidates demonstrated a good AO1 recall of knowledge across a number of topics, gaining marks in areas such as safe working practices and machinery operation. There was a mixed response to the animal related questions with really good recall in some areas but not in others.

AO2 question responses were varied. As in Spring, the candidates who achieved higher marks were able to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, backed up by relevant examples and including explanation and justification where needed. Lower achieving candidates tended to give briefer or repetitive answers and did not make links to impacts or explanations as necessary.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:
- Health and safety (Unit 201)
- Machinery (Unit 203)
- Digestive systems (Unit 202)

Candidates require further support in:
- Topography (Unit 201)
- Seed germination (Unit 202)
- Impact of soil types on plant growth (Unit 202)

Extended Response Question
The extended answer question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp and knowledge across the qualification. Candidates were asked to discuss how changes in the UK climate could affect animal husbandry and to consider any alternative enterprises. This was generally poorly answered with answers demonstrating poor planning, in contrast to candidate performance in previous papers. A limited range of examples were given; these centred around water supply and adaptation to heat and cold. Where higher marks were achieved these themes were explored in more depth, for example how the cost of feed might increase due to increase pressure on water supplies. Candidates also struggled to suggest any different enterprises that may be considered.

Centres could also encourage candidates to plan the Extended Response Question. It is shown that candidates that take this approach tend to achieve marks in the higher bands.

Candidates would benefit from fully understanding what the question is asking for before answering. Linking statements to explanations in the describe/explain type questions would significantly increase their overall marks.

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
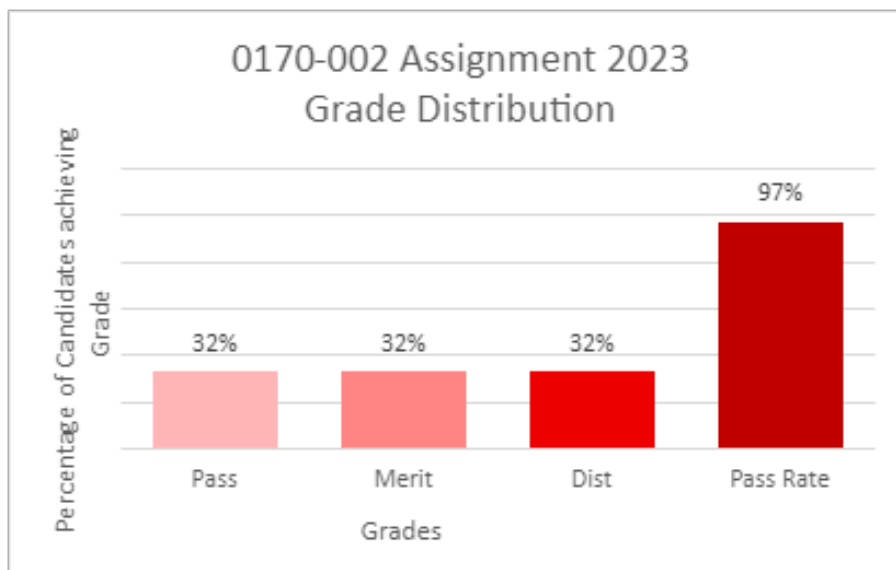
Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0170-002
Series: 2023

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	23
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	42

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

Principal Moderator Commentary

The synoptic assignment contained a wide range of tasks which allowed centres to give candidates every opportunity to achieve to their full potential.

Candidates showed a wide range of abilities throughout all Assessment Outcomes (AOs). Overall, a good, and in some cases excellent, 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. Candidates must be congratulated on the very realistic approach that was made in relation to the scenario, with some very realistic ideas put forward in the tasks.

Practical tasks were to a good standard, with a varied range of animals used for the assessments. Health checks were completed well, but feeding logs frequently lacked detail.

Centres are reminded that candidates' synoptic assignments may be uploaded in advance of the final submission date and are asked to ensure that all documents are uploaded in a timely fashion. This supports 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.

Centres are asked to annotate on candidates work incorrect statements and the quality of the work, eg areas which are good or lacking detail, and to include areas for improvement on the Candidate Record Form (CRF) unless the mark awarded is in the excellent band.

Centres are asked to carefully check the addition of the total marks on the CRF and when uploading information onto the Moderation Portal.