0170-501 – Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies - Theory exam (1)

March 2023

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 2023** 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 Level 2 Land Based Studies - Theory exam (1).

Theory Exam – March 2023
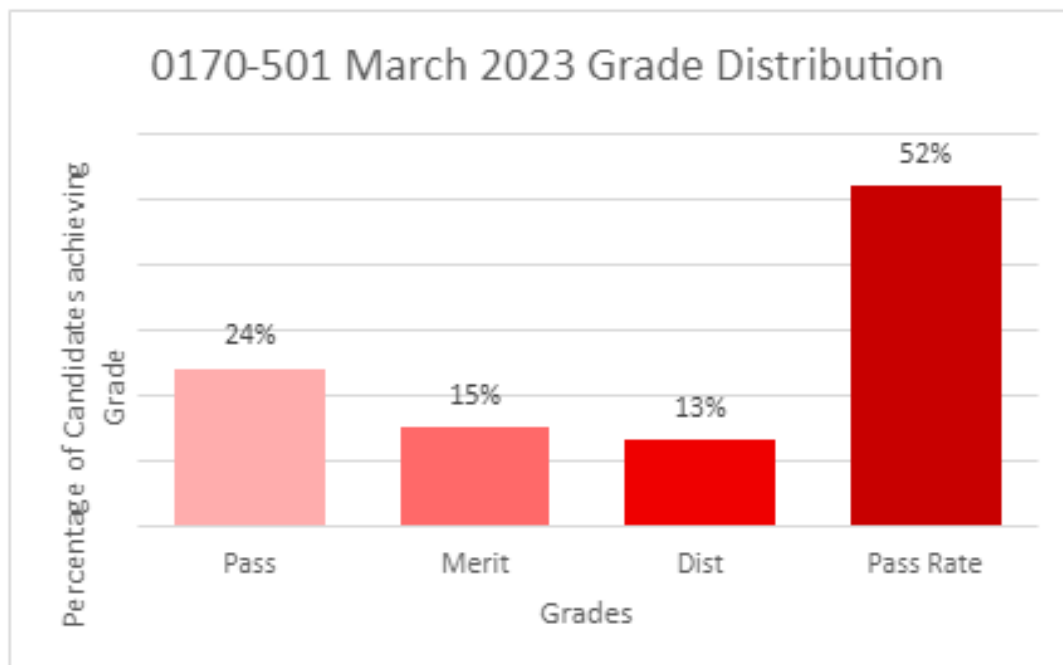
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0170-501**
Series: **March 2023**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
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: 0170-501

Series 1 (March)

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.