



# **0171-20 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture**

**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.

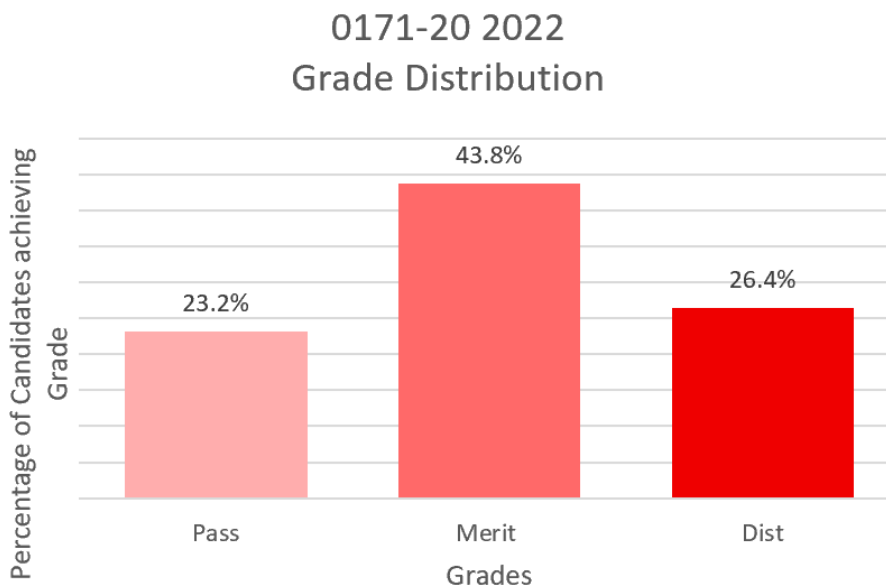
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments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

- 0171-521 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture – Theory exam
  - March 2022 (Spring)
  - June 2022 (Summer)
- 0171-022 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture – 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: 0171-521

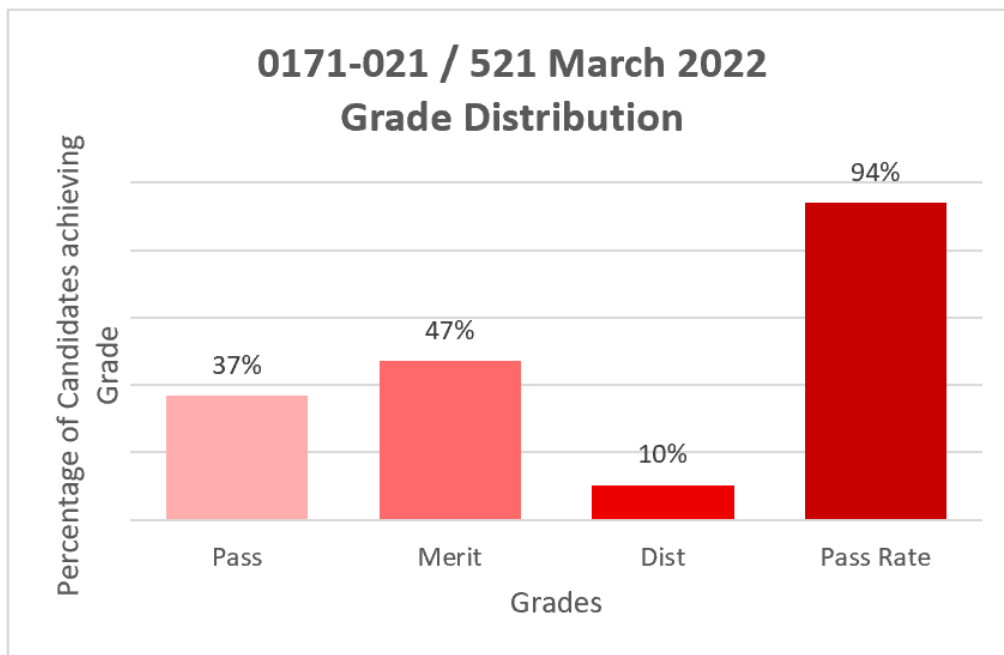
Series: March 2022 (Spring)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>50</b>
Pass mark	19
Merit mark	27
Distinction mark	36

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:

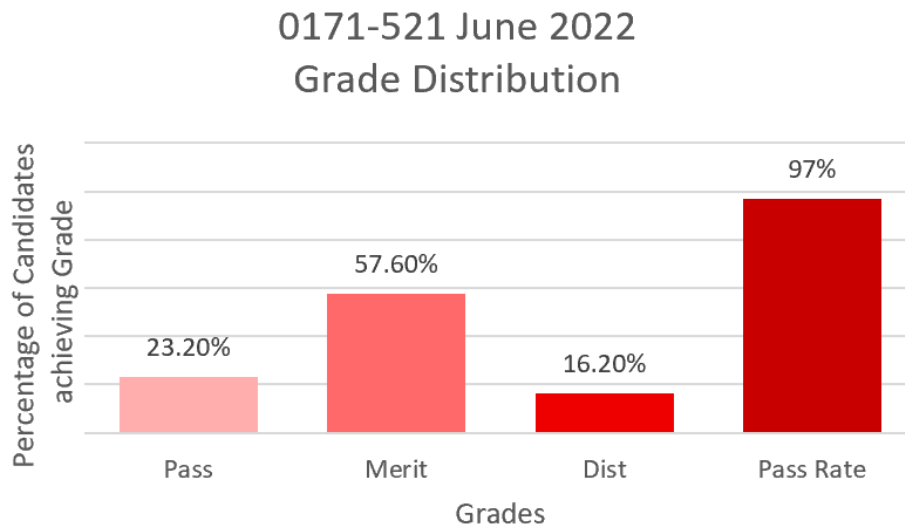


Assessment: 0171-521  
Series: June 2022 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>50</b>
Pass mark	15
Merit mark	23
Distinction mark	32

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



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 0171-521- Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture - Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2022

The paper was set at the appropriate level, was consistent with the test specification and featured a mixture of AO1 recall, AO2 understanding and AO4 applied knowledge questions. The terminology and technical content assessed in the question paper was to the correct Level 2 standard.

Overall, as might be expected, AO1 questions were effectively answered by most candidates, and AO2 questions proved more difficult. AO4 scenario-based questions were found to be most challenging.

The strongest performing units were:

- Crop husbandry (Unit 203)
- Topic of pesticides (Unit 203)

The units that were seen to be more difficult were:

- Farm animal production (Unit 204)
- Physiology of plants and animals (Unit 206)

There was a good balance of questions for each topic area with a range of difficulty allowing for differentiation in knowledge. Many of recall questions were answered correctly by all, however where further depth of knowledge and understanding were required the achievement dropped.

The AO4 scenario-based section of questions demonstrated a clear differentiation of performance between higher and lower achieving candidates and consideration could be given to ensuring that candidates are aware of the nature and methodology of this style of questioning. An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates.

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

[Technicals in Agriculture and Land-based Engineering qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/0171-521-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100)



## Series 2 – June 2022

The paper was set at the appropriate level, was consistent with the test specification and featured a mixture of AO1 recall, AO2 understanding and AO4 applied knowledge questions. The terminology and technical content assessed in the question paper was to the correct level 2 standard.

A good mix of questions for each topic area with a range of difficulty. AO1 recall questions, in general, were well answered but AO2 questions proved more difficult allowing for differentiation in knowledge. Candidates do appear to struggle with True/False statement and science-based questions.

The strongest performing units were:

- Animal breeds (Unit 204)
- Working in the agriculture industry (Unit 207)

The units that were seen to be more difficult were:

- Crop husbandry (Unit 203)
- Physiology of plants and animals (Unit 206)

The AO4 scenario-based section of questions demonstrated a clear differentiation of performance between higher and lower achieving candidates and consideration could be given to ensuring that candidates are aware of the nature and methodology of this style of questioning. Scenario 1 performed better than scenario 2. An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates.

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

[Technicals in Agriculture and Land-based Engineering qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications)

# Synoptic Assignment

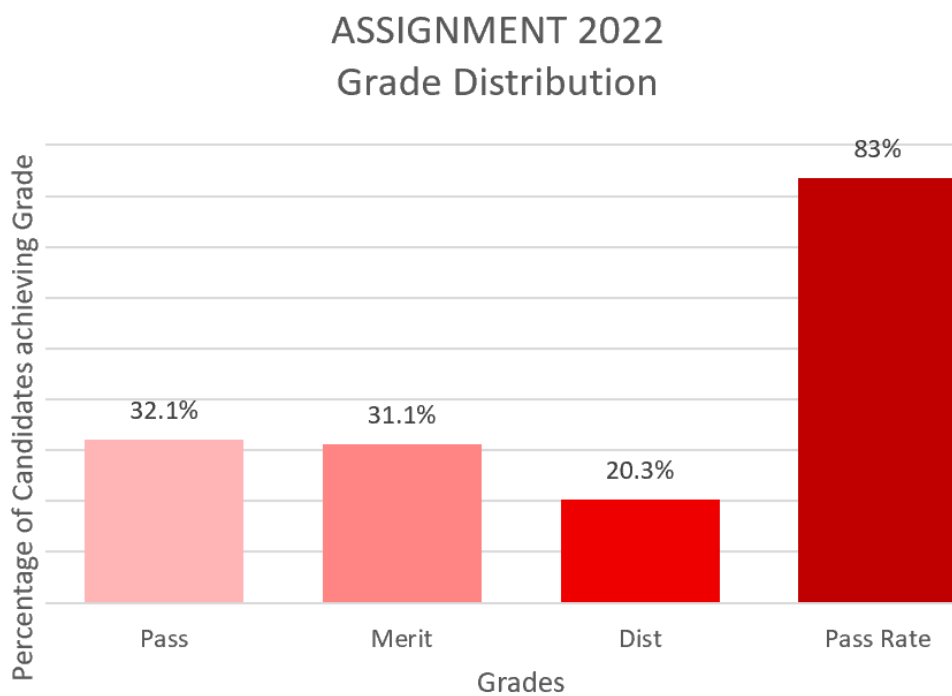
## Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0171-022  
Series: 2022

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	43

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. Centres must be congratulated on allowing assessment to take place in real live situations. Very good examples were evidenced and observed with the livestock task.

Candidate performance covered the full range of abilities, both practical and written. As expected, practical activities were completed to a good level of achievement. In some cases, some centres could have made more use of these activities to gather evidence for other AOs. Risk assessments and other reports were completed with a very wide range of detail.

On Task 4 many candidates gave a good report on the growing of the crop but lacked detail in the actual storage and feeding of the product.

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.