0171-021/521 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture

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;
0171-021/521 Level 2 in Agriculture – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2023
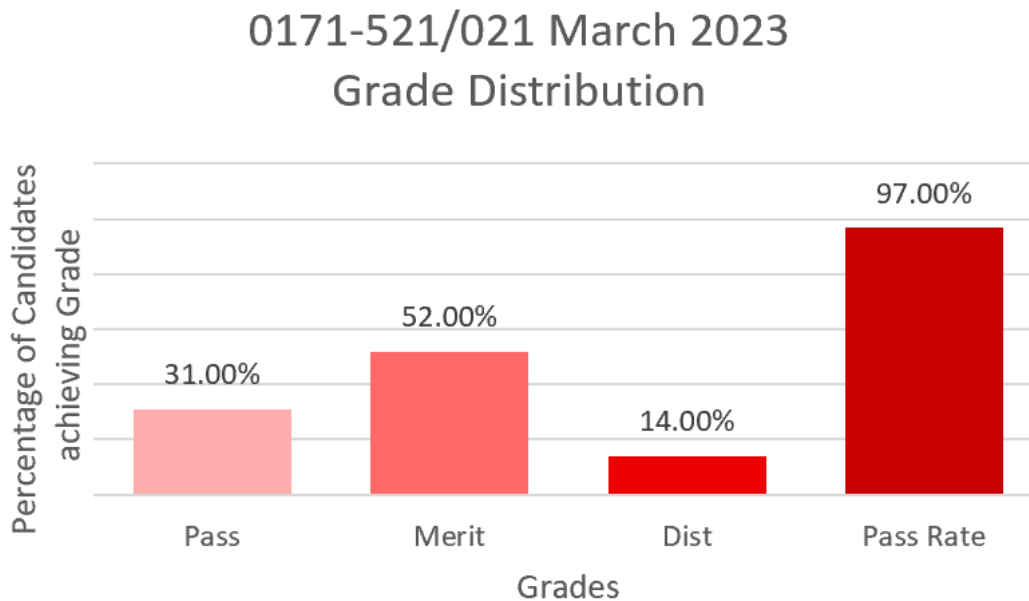
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0171-021/521**
Series: **March 2023**

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

Total marks available	50
Pass mark	18
Merit mark	26
Distinction mark	35

The graph below shows the approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:

0171-521/021 March 2023
Grade Distribution

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0171-021/521

Series 1 (March)

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.

The paper contained a good mix of questions for each topic area with a range of difficulty allowing for differentiation in knowledge.

AO1 recall questions and picture-based questions, in general, were well answered.

AO2 questions on livestock were effectively answered. Candidates showed a weakness on AO2 True/False statement questions and science questions.

AO4 scenario-based questions were found to be most challenging, demonstrating a clear differentiation of performance between higher and lower achieving candidates.

The strongest performing unit was:
- Farm animal production (Unit 204)

The units that were seen to be more difficult were:
- Crop husbandry (Unit 203)
- Physiology of plants and animals (Unit 206)

An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates. Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully.

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)](#)