

# 0171-010/510 – Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2)

March 2023

## 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 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;  
**0171-010/510 Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2).**

# Theory Exam – March 2023

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

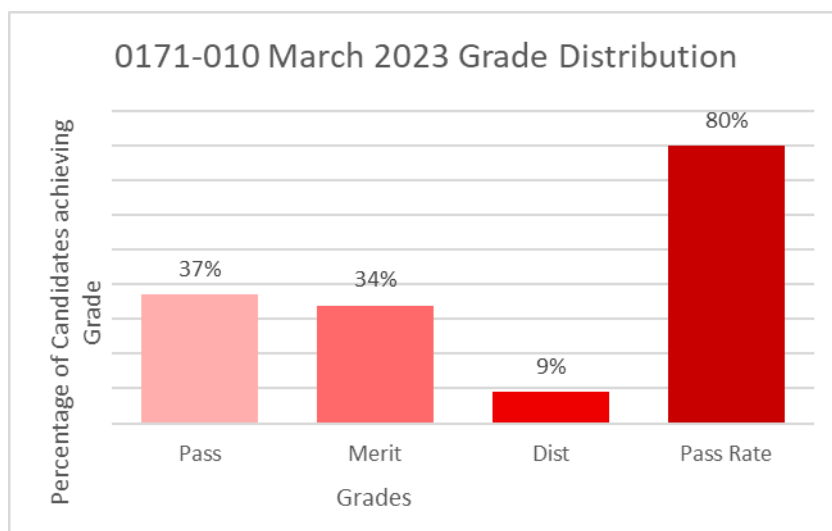
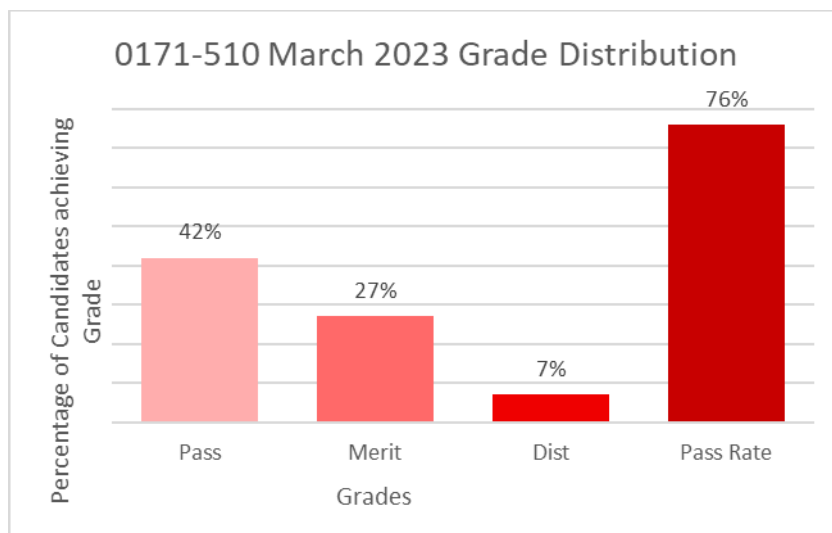
Assessment: **0171-010/510**

Series: **March 2023**

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	44

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: 0171-010/510**

### Series 1 (March)

The question paper was generally balanced and covered a good level 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, gaining marks in topics such as ATV traction, zoonotic diseases and disadvantages of inbreeding.

AO2 questions responses were varied across the cohort. Many candidates demonstrated weaknesses in understanding questions that related to farm animal health and nutrition. 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 and listed answers. There was evidence of 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, this meant that candidates did not always provide enough detail when asked for explanations or descriptions.

Candidates need to 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 covered.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- Traction of ATV (Unit 335)
- Environmental impact of slurry spreading (Unit 316)
- Zoonotic diseases (Unit 313)
- Inbreeding problems (Unit 334)
- Infertility in cows (Unit 334)

Candidates require further support in:

- Types of hazardous waste (Unit 316)
- Respiration rates of farm animals (Unit 313)
- Differences between bacteria and a virus (Unit 313)
- Alveoli (Unit 334)

### Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended answer question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of agriculture and livestock in general. Candidates were asked to discuss health and profitability of a livestock enterprise. Generally, candidates showed good knowledge and discussion of the challenges and solutions facing livestock. Most answers were well structured with accurate and consistent use of technical terms. Higher-level candidates produced coherent and well-structured answers with excellent knowledge and discussion of health and profitability with relevant and current technical language. Some candidates focused their answers on just one area, for example many candidates wrote at length about nutrition without exploring other areas of health and profitability.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' which can be accessed here:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/agriculture/0171-technicals-in-agriculture-and-landbased-engineering#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.