

# 0171-502 – Level 3 Agriculture– Theory Exam

March 2024

## 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 2024** 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:  
**0171-502 Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam.**

# Theory Exam – March 2024

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

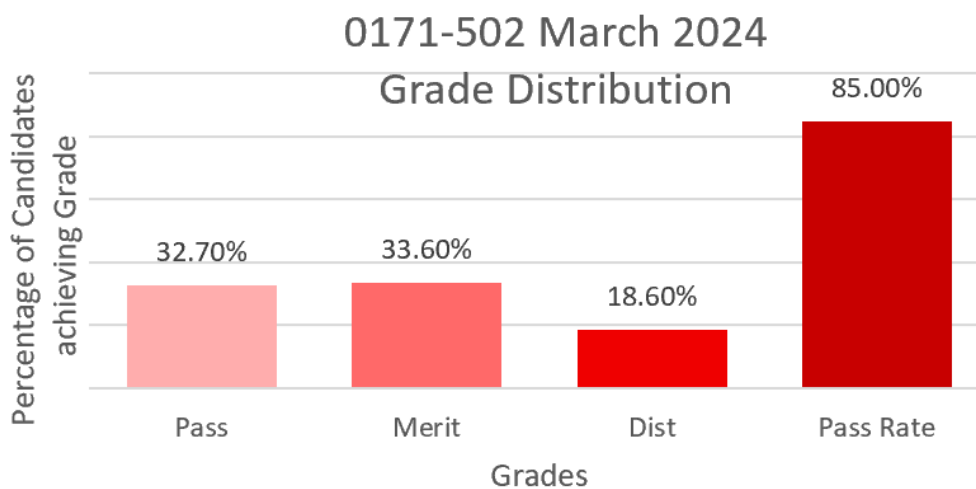
Assessment: **0171-502**

Series: **March 2024**

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	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

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: 0171-502**

### Series 1 (March)

Overall, a well answered paper with a wide range of marks. There was a range of question types at the correct level for the candidates. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth, and overall candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year. Performance across plant and soil science was better than seen across previous series', in areas such as transpiration and field drainage.

The AO2 questions identified the more able candidates. Those who did not fully answer the question lost marks. 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.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- Breeds (Unit 307)
- Field drainage (Unit 305)

Candidates require further support in:

- Minor nutrients (Unit 304)
- Crop production/dicots (Unit 304)
- Machinery operation (Unit 303)

In the Extended Response Question, candidates were asked to discuss why soil compaction causes reduction in crop yields on a mixed farm and methods to reduce compaction. There was a variable level of performance with many giving some good detail on soil compaction but gave less detail on how to reduce compaction. If candidates plan how they are to answer the question this will help them to use their time more effectively and ensure all parts of the question are covered. It will also help them to answer the question in a logical format.

In general, candidates need to read the questions to ensure they understand what is required to fully answer the question. Candidates should also check over their scripts before handing them in. 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.

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-and-training/courses)