0171-512– Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2)

March 2024

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 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;
0171-512 Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2024
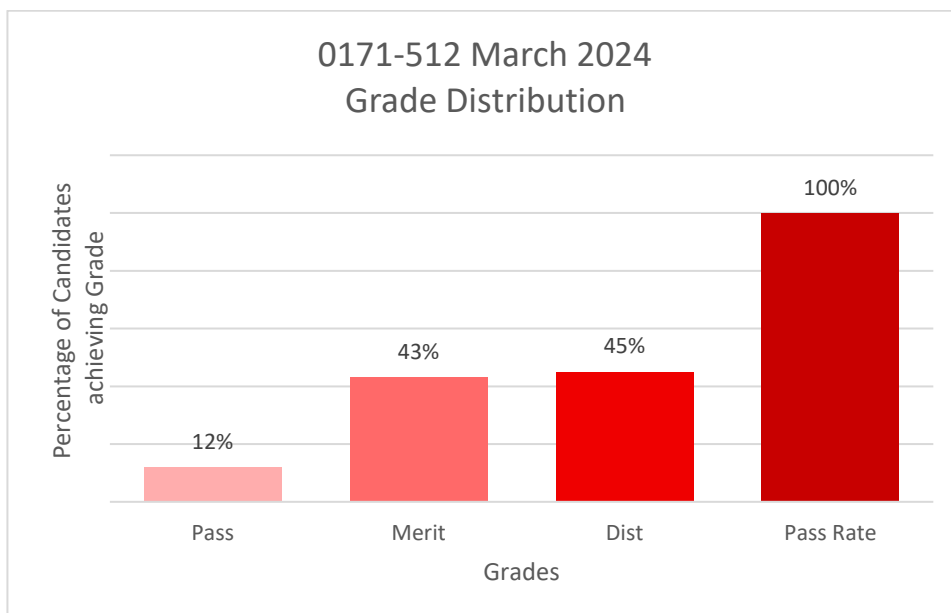
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0171-512**
Series: **March 2024**

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	42

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

0171-512 March 2024
Grade Distribution

Pass: 12%
Merit: 43%
Dist: 45%
Pass Rate: 100%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0171-512

Series 1 (March)

The question paper was balanced and covered a good level of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. This series was comparable to past papers. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth. There was a strong performance by candidates this series, with many achieving high marks, especially in AO1 questions.

Candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as pollution and waste control management and ATVs and RTFLs.

The AO2 questions were less well-answered as many candidates only partially answered the questions, therefore were unable to gain full marks. 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:

- Farm habitat management (Unit 316)
- Inorganic waste (Unit 316)
- PPE (Unit 335)
- ATV/RTFL (Unit 335)

Candidates require further support in:

- Beetle banks (Unit 317)
- Hedgerows (Unit 317)
- Oil and filter change (335)

Within the Extended Response Question, candidates were asked to discuss the advantages of switching to liquid fertiliser and how the impact on the environment can be minimised. This question demonstrates the most discrimination. Many candidates failed to include environmental impact in their discussions and lacked structure in their answers. This identified candidates which had a clear understanding of the key factors with good use of technical language.

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' 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