0171-514 – 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;
0171-514 Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2024

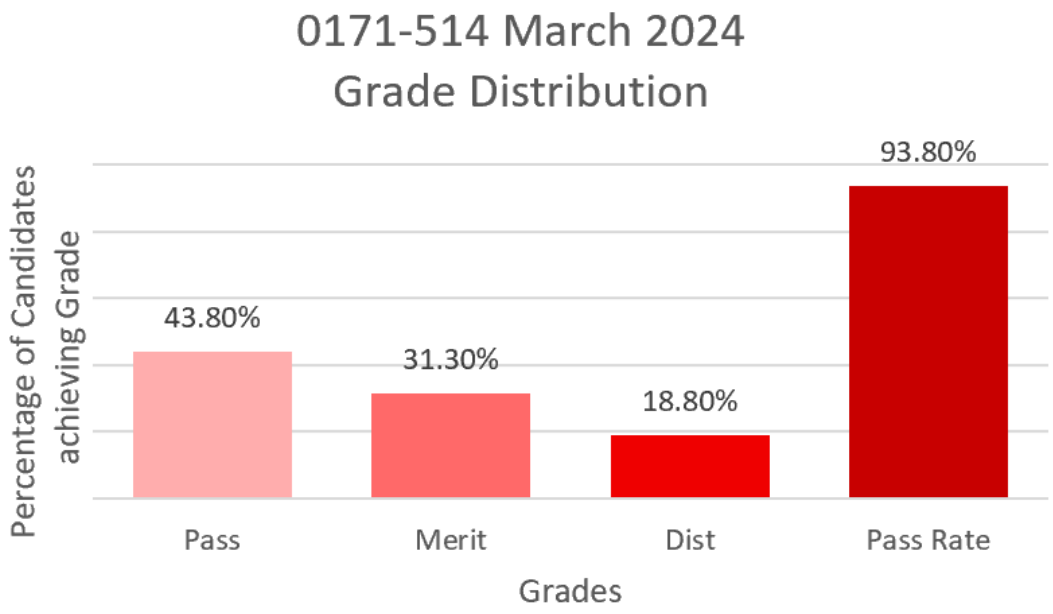
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0171-514**
Series: **March 2024**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	43

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: 0171-514

Series 1 (March)

This was a fair paper testing the candidate's knowledge and understanding across relevant units within the qualification. There were plenty of opportunities for a prepared candidate to pick up the necessary marks. Candidates had generally prepared well for the exam.

Candidates performed well on AO1 questions, and particularly those that related to a practical area that the candidates were familiar with. Candidates struggled on the AO2 questions where too often, they failed to follow up a statement with a description or explanation. They could relate to the demands of COSHH regulations, but not with full breath and depth, which limited marks achieved.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- Shear bolt breakage (Unit 310).
- Components of a liquid cooling system (Unit 310)
- Differentials (Unit 310)
- Precautions when using an angle grinder (Unit 318)

Candidates require further support in:

- Use of a chain to transmit power (Unit 310)
- Draft and position control (Unit 310)
- Job card details (Unit 310)
- COSHH (Unit 310)

Within the Extended Response Question, candidates were asked to discuss procedures to carry out an inspection in the workshop when a part is repeatedly breaking on a land-based machine, and how to reduce repeated breakages.

The land-based machine was left for the candidate to choose, and this encouraged a wide range of responses, allowing candidates a certain freedom of choice. Most candidates did well on the practical repair of the part and how to stop it recurring. Although there was some reference to PPE, the safety aspect was poorly answered. Safety is important in farm mechanisation and is referenced within the ERQ most years. Centres are encouraged to focus more on this aspect to support their candidates in exams.

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