0172-35 Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Equine Management

2019

Qualification Report

Contents

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It 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 assessments in the 2019 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 0172-002/502 Level 3 Equine Management - Theory exam (1)
  - o March 2019 (Spring)
  - o June 2019 (Summer)
- 0172-001 Level 3 Equine Management - Synoptic assignment (1)

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:
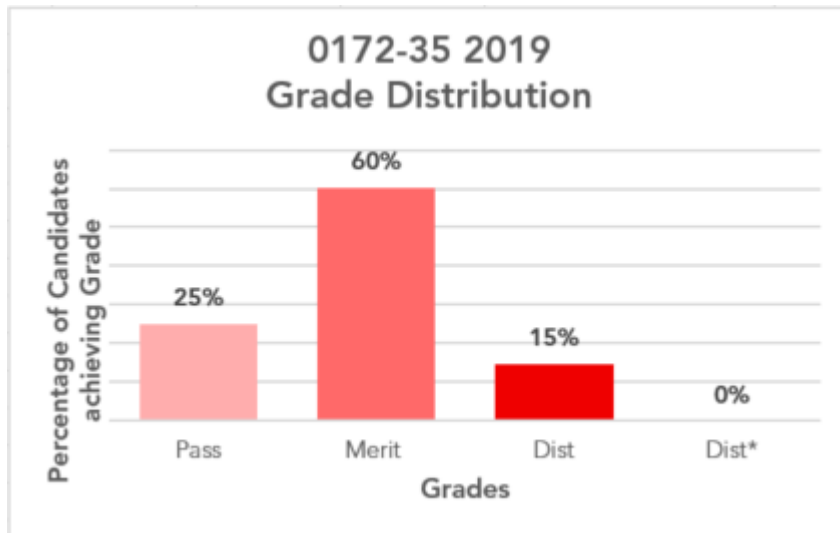
Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.
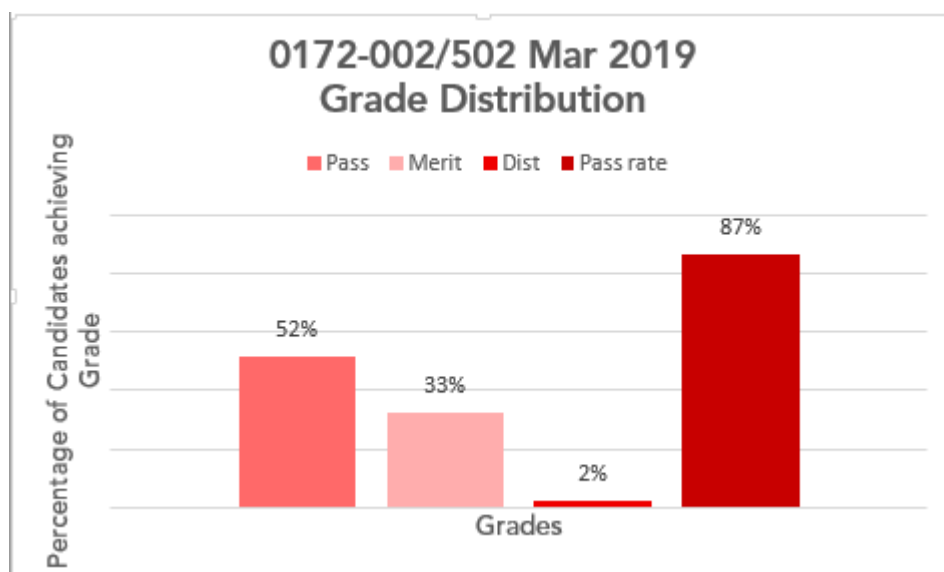
Theory Exam

Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0172-002/502
Series: March 2019

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 distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:

Assessment: 0172-002/502
Series: June 2019

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 distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:
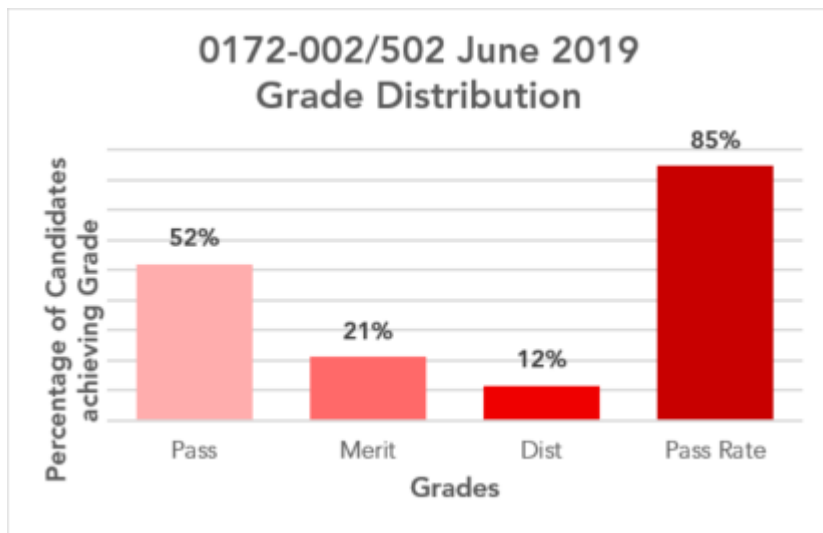
Chief Examiner Commentary

Assessment component: *0172-002/502*

Series 1 (March)

Candidates' responses to some questions highlighted some weakness in the familiarity of command verbs and general examination technique. For example, an awareness of the number of marks per question in relation to the amount of information required, or the need to give more depth in answers to questions asking for an explanation. Candidates should also be reminded to provide units of measurement where applicable e.g. for recording the correct resting TPR parameters.

Although spelling and grammar are not marked in these examinations, it should be noted that some candidates made significant errors in their responses and misspelled some key technical terminology. Handwriting was at times illegible on the written examination scripts, therefore candidates must be aware that all written work must be fully legible. Lots of candidates were using outdated terminology such as stable vices instead of stereotypical behaviours.

Unit 350
This unit focuses on various areas of stable management and yard operations. The questions in these areas were generally answered well. Strong responses were seen in questions relating to field/turnout provisions and their impact on welfare, and the importance of risk assessments. Areas of weakness within the unit included some preventative care schedules, and the importance of complying with COSHH regulations.

Unit 351
This unit focuses on animal health, strengths were seen in questions relating to nutritional disorders and symptoms of sweet itch. Weaknesses showed in questions relating to the replication of viruses within the horse's body, many candidates misread this question and discussed how viruses transferred from horse to horse externally; and the symptoms and causes of Equine metabolic syndrome. A number of candidates could not provide the correct resting TPR parameters and this should be basic underpinning knowledge. Candidates should ensure that the scientific elements of the unit are covered in greater detail as questions with higher scientific content were generally answered less well.

Extended response question
In general, the answers to this question were very mixed. Some candidates did not read the question properly and so provided answers about the general welfare of stabled horses without relating these to routines and their impact on health and welfare as required by the question.

Series 2 (June)

There was a mixed range of calibre of answers within these scripts, ranging from candidates that had answered 4 or 5 questions to those who had shown good understanding and depth across most of the script with some limitation of knowledge evidenced with questions discussed below. The candidates overall seemed to have a good grasp of providing a sufficient number of answers in relation to the marks allocated per question.

Handwriting was at times illegible which caused difficulty in interpreting the words. Candidates must be reminded of the importance of managing their handwriting and ensuring information is clearly presented to assist the examiner.

Unit 350
This unit focuses on various areas of stable management and yard operations. The questions in these areas were generally answered well. Strong responses were seen in questions relating to stable design features and administering wormers. Areas of weakness within the unit included, integrating horses and the importance of complying with foot abscesses.

Unit 351
This unit focuses on animal health, strengths were seen in questions relating to nutritional disorders and symptoms of sweet itch. Weaknesses showed in questions relating to the management of gastric ulcers and avoiding common mistakes when taking TPR. Strengths were seen in questions relating to manging sweet itch and first aid equipment.

Extended response question
There was a mixed response to the long answer question in terms of covering a wide variety of elements of sick nursing. Most candidates discussed the need for barrier nursing, record keeping and physiological stress of being on a large yard but did not fully explore the financial and legislative aspects of sick nursing on a large commercial yard.
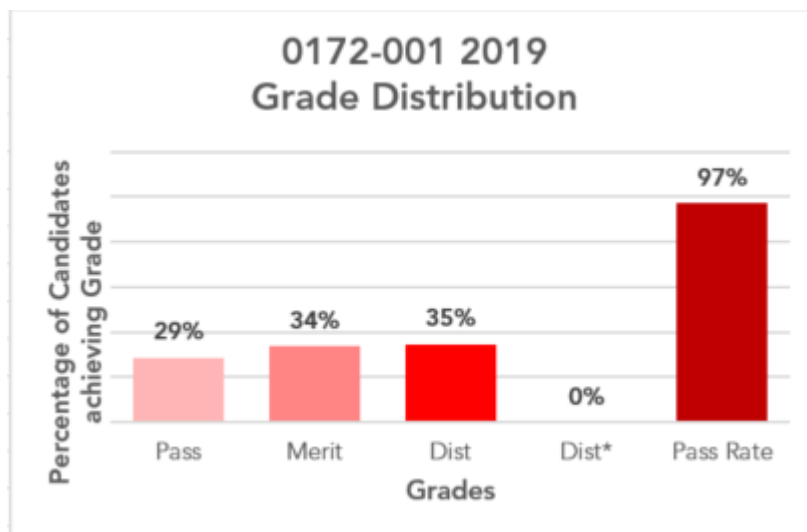
Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0172-001
Series: 2019

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:

Principal Moderator Commentary

The synoptic assessment consisted of an assignment brief centred around candidates working as a groom on a small, full livery yard. The practical tasks within the assessment were focused on candidates completing daily duties and preparing a horse for turnout. Other aspects of the brief assessed the theoretical knowledge of the candidates with the scenarios of common conditions found in horses kept at grass and undertaking a field assessment. It covered a wide range of topics from the mandatory module content and allowed for all levels of candidate ability to be stretched and challenged. The practical tasks in particular assessed skills which are strongly related to activities candidates would be expected to undertake in future industry employment.

AO1
Most candidates showed an appropriate range of knowledge across the qualification. On the whole, the evidence provided showed accuracy with only minor misunderstandings seen. For some candidates, the detail provided lacked consistency across the whole qualification range with some areas showing less breadth and detail. Candidates gained AO1 marks from across the banding in the assessment objective marking grid.

AO2
Most candidates showed a fair to good understanding from across the qualification. Explanations were mostly logical and detailed in some areas. There were some links made between under pinning theory and practice which came through in both theoretical tasks and through tutor feedback on the practical tasks. Some areas did lack consistency in terms of depth and connections made between areas of the qualification. The vast majority of the candidates gained marks for AO2 in the middle banding on the assessment objective marking grid. With a smaller number gaining AO2 marks in the upper banding.

AO3
Candidate performance showed variation in the application of practical/technical skills. The evidence of skills seen varied between limited quality of work and some awkwardness of implementation up to excellent and confident practical skills. Candidates gained AO3 marks from across the whole of the banding on the assessment objective marking grid. Care should be taken when awarding marks for this AO, it is linked only to the practical application of skill and not the understanding of the practical application.

AO4
As in previous years candidate performance varied on the AO of brining it all together. On the whole candidates did show evidence of this, using their knowledge, understanding and skills during tasks to bring it all together. The vast majority of candidates gained AO4 marks in the lower and middle banding of the assessment objective marking grid and this was generally in line with the candidate's performance on AO1 and AO2.

AO5
Candidate performance varied on the level of attention to detail and perfecting during the assessment. The performance varied from showing limited attention to detail to highly focused on the assessment outcomes. Candidates gained AO5 marks from across the banding on the assessment objective marking grid and this was generally in line with the candidate's performance in AO3.

Best practice

Most centres provided tutor written feedback of the candidates' practical performance which was detailed and showed the quality of the candidates' performance across the practical tasks. This written evidence [Practical Observation Form] is the key evidence required for the moderation of

the practical tasks in the synoptic assessment. Some centres produced PO forms that were limited in detail. Focusing on the quality of the tutor written feedback is important moving forward.

There were a small number of occurrences where the overall marks had been added up incorrectly and there were also a small number of occurrences where the incorrect marking grid had been used for this qualification. Care should be taken to ensure this administrative aspect is correct when marking and uploading to the platform. Centres should also ensure the standardisation declaration is uploaded for the qualification. This is best to be uploaded to the documents tab on the moderation platform.

Where there is more than one marker within the qualification centres should ensure that the evidence that is uploaded for each candidate is in the same detail and is consistent across the cohort. A small number of centres uploaded tutor written evidence on the POF and CRF that varied in detail between assessors. A consistent approach between markers will enable the moderation process to be undertaken without hindrance.

Where tutor and candidate evidence is uploaded in a handwritten format care should be taken to ensure all evidence is fully legible and that both sides of the paper/evidence are scanned. It is best practice to word process evidence.

Overall the vast majority of centres produced high quality evidence which aided the moderation process. Best practice is seen with the inclusion of the following evidence.

Evidence uploaded to the portal in the following order:

- Declaration of authenticity
- Detailed CRF [one completed for the entire assessment]
- AO3 written feedback on the CRF summarises the practical performance.
- Detailed practical observation forms or centre produced equivalent.
- Candidate notes [if used] which are clearly differentiated from assessment evidence.