

0172-004/504 – Level 3 Equine Management - Theory exam (1)

March 2020

Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – March 2020.....	4
Grade Boundaries and distribution.....	4
Chief Examiner Commentary.....	5

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 2020** 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;
0172-004/504 – Level 3 Equine Management - Theory exam (1)

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

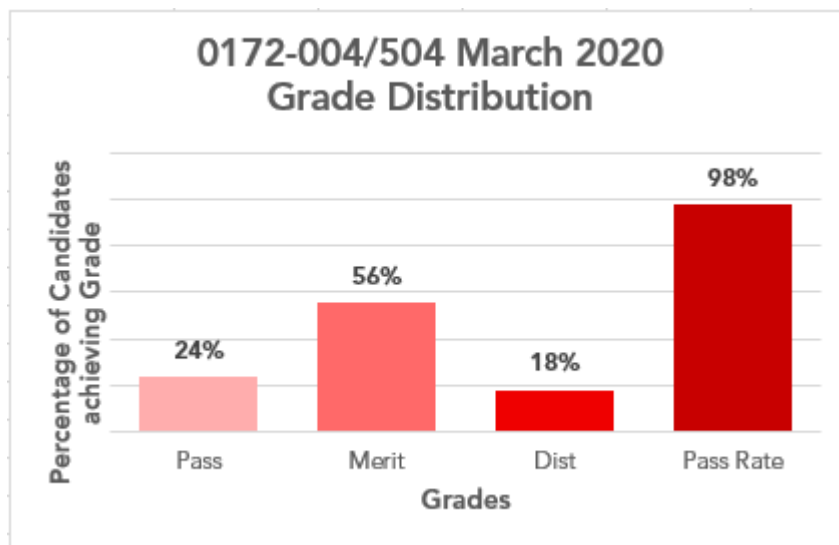
Assessment: **0172-004/504**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	
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: 0172-004/504

Series 1 (March)

Generally, candidates showed a better ability to read and understand the questions than in previous exam series. For many candidates the answers given clearly related to the specific content of the questions which shows improvement year on year. However, there were still some candidates missing opportunities to gain marks by giving generic answers which showed a lack of knowledge specific to the topics covered in the examination.

As in previous years candidates gave a wide range of responses from poor to excellent. Candidate performance was stronger in questions where recall of facts was required [AO1] especially on the more practical based questions. The questions which asked for explanations to show an understanding of topics [AO2], as in previous years, were the questions where candidates lost the most marks. Some candidates were offering answers that were lists, facts or brief statements instead of a sufficient explanation of the topic. Where explanations were given, they mostly showed more breadth and depth on more practical questions and questions which asked for the practical application of theory. The least effective answers were seen on the highly theoretical/scientific questions. This trend has also been seen in previous series.

Unit 350:

This unit focuses on various topics of the stable and yard management; most of the questions on this unit were answered effectively. Strengths for this unit were around the identification of important features when assessing the suitability of a stable, the importance of foot care and tack checks. Some vague/non-specific information was given which limited marks. The main area of weakness within this unit was on the topic of vaccinations. The majority of candidates did not show their ability to demonstrate an understanding of how to implement vaccinations on a yard.

Unit 351:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to horse health. Strengths for this unit were around the identification of checks required during a daily horse health assessment. The main areas of weakness within this unit were on the topics of disease identification from given symptoms and medicine administration. There was poor use of the correct terminology and descriptions of methods of medicine administration were lacking.

Unit 355:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to equine feeding and nutrition. The questions within this unit were answered the least effectively overall. The main strength for this unit was seen on the topic of conditions/life stages that affect dietary requirements. Questions relating to hindgut fermentation and incorrect feeding were answered least effectively by most candidates. As in previous series the breadth and depth of understanding was lacking in explanations for these questions which limited marks.

Unit 356:

This unit focuses on various areas in relation to horse behaviour and welfare. Strengths for this unit were around the identification of stereotypic behaviours and horse evolution. The main area of weakness within this unit was on the topic of horse behaviour in the stable environment. Some candidates did not show their ability to demonstrate an understanding of why horse behaviour may be affected in the stable.

Extended response question:

This question covers the units above. The question focused on the importance of a well-managed yard for the health and welfare of horses. The majority of candidates demonstrated a good basic understanding of the aspects involved but, as in previous years, the biggest limiting factor was the breadth and depth of the discussion. The best answers showed a more in depth understanding and the ability to bring together information across the units. A large number of candidates were still not effectively justifying their discussion points. An improvement in candidate ability to appraise their comments, explain reasons behind their comments and justify their decisions will enable them to move towards a higher banding.

Overall, candidates were showing improvement in exam technique. The vast majority of candidates were interpreting the command verbs of the questions correctly. Some candidates, however, gave detailed descriptions on 'identify' and 'state' questions which does not increase the marks awarded on these types of questions. Improvement is also seen in the ability to explain answers, particularly around the more practical questions. The more theoretical/scientific questions relating mostly to units 351 and 355 were the least well answered for a large number of candidates. The depth of understanding in explanations is often weaker on these questions and would be a beneficial area of focus during delivery. Another area for consideration to limit marks missed on the more practical recall questions is to focus candidate responses on more specific answers rather than generic statements. An example of this would be a question that asks for the identification of life stages that may affect dietary requirements. An inappropriate generic answer would be 'age'. To show the level of knowledge required a correct answer would be 'foal' or 'veteran'.

For preparation for the extended response question, the key areas of focus to improve candidate marks across a range of abilities are:

- Plan the answer to aid in a clear and focused discussion.
- Include a wide range of descriptive information that relates to the topic. A wider range of basic information will improve marks in the lower banding.
- Improving candidate ability to explain and justify their comments will improve marks towards higher bandings.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/animal-management/0172-technicals-in-animal-care-management-and-equine-care-management#tab=documents>