

# **0172-008/508 – Level 3 Equine Management - Theory exam (2)**

**March 2020**

## **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 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;  
**0172-008/508 – Level 3 Equine Management - Theory exam (2)**

# Theory Exam – March 2020

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

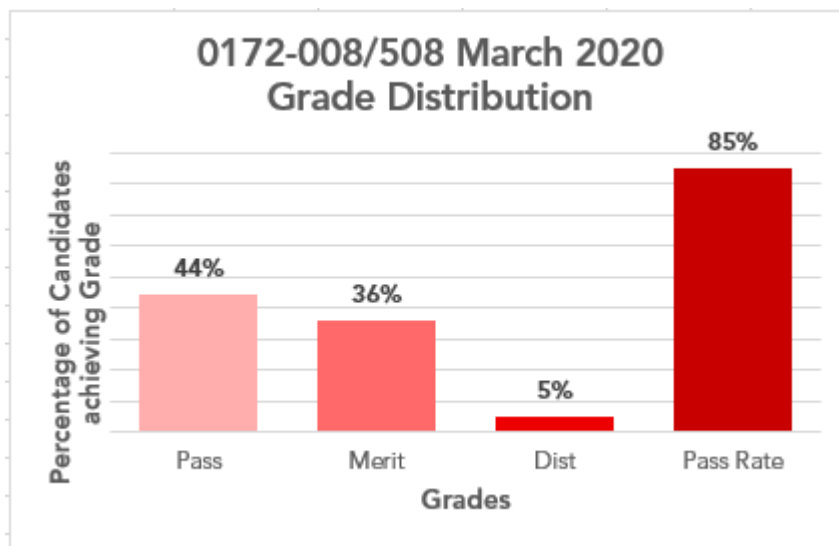
Assessment: **0172-008/508**

Series: **March 2020**

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	
Pass mark	22
Merit mark	31
Distinction mark	40

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: 0172-008/508**

### 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.

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 the 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 358:

This unit focuses on various areas of the principals of equitation. On the whole, most of the questions on this unit were answered effectively. Strengths for this unit were around the identification of variations within trot, exercises to improve a horse on the fore hand and correcting a horse that refuses show jumps. Slightly less knowledge was seen in the description of the variations within trot. Some vague/non-specific information was given which limited marks. The main area of weakness within this unit was on the topic of visualisation.

#### Unit 360:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to horse fitness. The questions within this unit were answered the least effectively overall. The main strength for this unit was seen in alternatives to ridden exercise. The weaknesses seen in this unit were on the most scientific questions relating to lactic acid build up and benefits of canter work during a fitness programme. As in previous series, the breadth and depth of understanding was lacking in explanations for these questions which limited marks.

#### Unit 364:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to business in the land based sector. The strengths for this unit were seen in topics relating to good customer service and business physical resources. Some candidates showed misunderstandings on the legal rights/responsibilities in relation to working hours and the correct storage of customer records within a business. The biggest weakness seen within the unit was on the topic of the benefits of limited companies. Candidates missed opportunities to gain marks as explanations of the benefits showed a lack of understanding of limited companies.

#### Extended response question:

This question covers the units above. The question focused on the considerations needed to create a viable business preparing horses for competition. The majority of candidates demonstrated a good basic understanding of the factors involved. Candidates effectively brought together relevant information from units 358 and 360. Information from unit 364 was the most limited, candidates did relate discussion points to customer base, but this unit could be integrated further.

The candidates who performed the best in this question were able to demonstrate a more in depth understanding and ability to bring together information from across the units. However, a large number of candidates lacked breadth and depth of discussion and did not effectively justify 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 showed an improvement in exam technique. The vast majority of candidates were interpreting the command verbs of the questions correctly. Improvement is also seen in candidate ability to explain answers, particularly around the more practical questions. The more theoretical/scientific questions relating mostly to unit 360 were the least well answered by candidates. The depth of understanding in explanations is often weaker on these questions and would be a beneficial area of focus during delivery. 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>