

0172-502 – Level 3 Technicals in Equine Management – Theory Exam (1)

March 2024

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 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;
0172-502 – Level 3 Technicals in Equine Management – Theory Exam (1).

Theory Exam – March 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

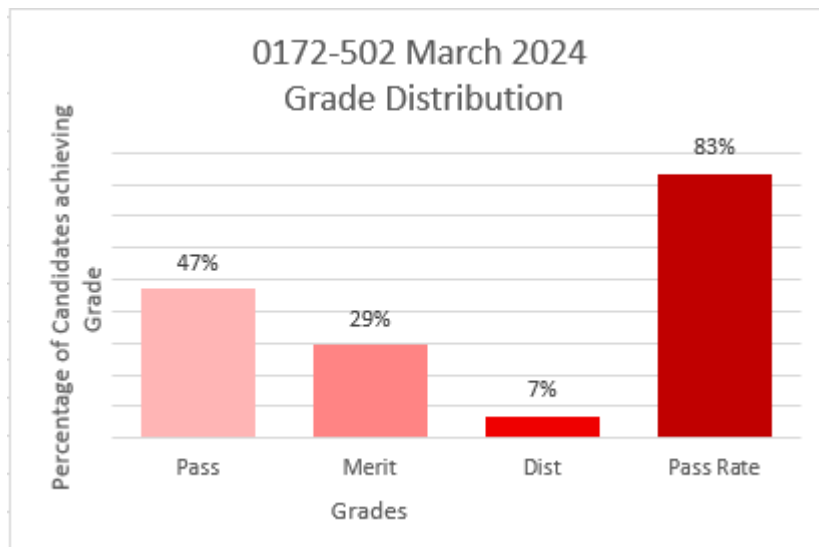
Assessment: **0172-502**

Series: **March 2024**

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

Total marks available	60
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: 0172-502

Series 1 (March)

Candidates generally performed well on this paper and exam technique was comparable to previous years. For many candidates, the answers given were clearly related to the specific content of the questions which allowed them to gain marks across the paper. However, there is still some evidence of candidates not reading or interpreting the questions correctly. Candidates frequently answer questions more generally by talking around the topic without addressing the specifics of the question. This trend has been seen consistently over previous series.

As in previous years, candidates gave a wide range of responses. Candidate performance was stronger in questions where recall of facts was required (AO1) especially on the more practical based questions across the units. Improvement was seen in this series in exam technique as fewer candidates gave detailed explanations on the 'identify' and 'state' (AO1) questions compared to previous years. This allows candidates more time to answer questions that require more detailed explanations. The questions which asked for explanations to demonstrate an understanding of topics (AO2), as in previous years, were questions where candidates lost the most marks. Some candidates offered answers that were lists, brief descriptions of facts, or statements instead of a sufficient explanation of the question topic, eg that include reasons. Where suitable explanations were given, they mostly showed more breadth and depth on questions which asked for the practical application of theory. There were some responses where the same point was explained in different ways which limited marks. The least successful answers were on the more theoretical and scientific questions across the units. This trend has also been seen in previous series.

Unit 350

This unit focuses on various areas of stable management and yard operations. The questions on this unit were generally answered well, particularly the questions relating to aspects of stable design and aspects of field provision. Candidates performed less well on the questions relating to health and safety.

Unit 351

This unit focuses on equine health. Variable responses were seen, and it was evident that some more scientific questions were answered less effectively. Weaknesses were seen in questions relating to welfare legislation and exertional rhabdomyolysis. There were strengths in questions which linked theory and practical knowledge together eg horse health plans, and laminitis treatment. Identification of parts of a first aid kit was also seen as a strength.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

This question required candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of stable management and horse health, and to bring this information together to discuss the health and welfare of a horse on box rest. In some cases, candidates showed evidence of planning, and this tended to help with better performance through clearer discussion. Many candidates did not effectively justify their discussion points which limited the number of marks that they gained. This year saw a slight decrease in the number of candidates gaining at least band 2 marks compared to previous years. This shows that for the majority of candidates, there was a limited ability to appraise their comments, explain the reasons behind the comments, and justify their decisions. These skills could be developed further in order to achieve higher marks.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here:
[Technicals in Animal Care Management and Equine Care Management qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/0172-502/0172-502-exam-guides)

