0172-504 – 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;
0172-504 – Level 3 Technicals in Equine Management – Theory Exam (1).

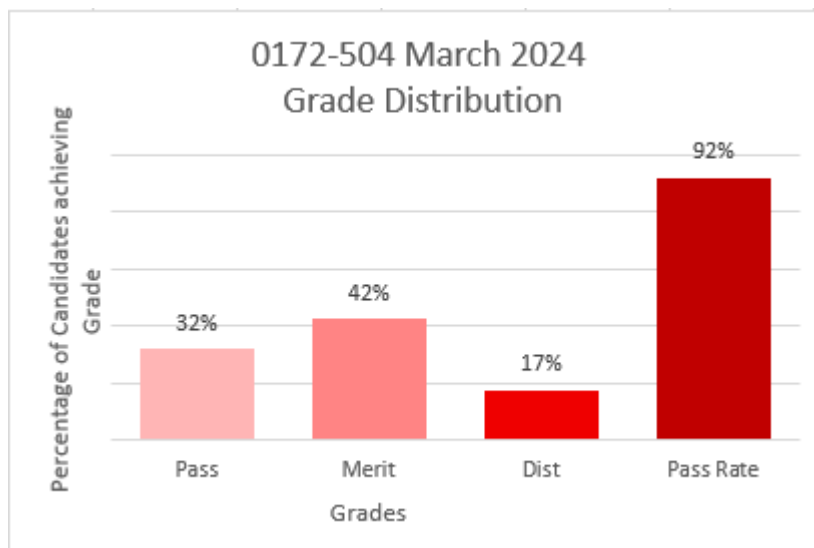# Theory Exam – March 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0172-504**
Series: **March 2024**

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 distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0172-504

Series 1 (March)

Candidates generally showed a good ability to read and understand questions. For many candidates, the answers given clearly related to the specifics of the questions which shows improvement year on year. However, there were areas where exam technique could be improved. There are still candidates missing opportunities to gain marks by giving generic answers which do not demonstrate understanding that is specific to the topics covered in the examination. These candidates often did not address the question properly and talked around the topic rather than answering the specifics of the question.

Candidates gave a wide range of responses. Candidate performance was stronger in questions where recall of knowledge was required (AO1) especially on the more practical based questions. Fewer candidates gave detailed explanations on the 'identify' and 'state' (AO1) questions compared to previous years. The questions which asked for explanations to demonstrate an understanding of topics (AO2), 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. Candidates mostly showed breadth and depth on questions which asked for the practical application of theory. The least successful answers were seen on highly theoretical/scientific questions. This trend has been seen in previous series.

Unit 350
This unit focuses on stable and yard management; most questions were answered well. Most candidates showed some knowledge on this unit with a small number giving more general/incorrect information. The main area of strength was the candidates' ability to identify the rules of feeding.

Unit 351
This unit focuses on horse health. Strength was seen on questions relating to restraint techniques when administering medicine. Weakness was evident on questions relating to equine rhabdomyolysis, zoonotic and notifiable disease.

Unit 355
This unit focuses on equine feeding and nutrition. The main areas of strength related to questions on life stages or conditions that require higher protein in the diet, methods of feeding roughage and the function of water in the body. Some candidates found the topic of hindgut fermentation challenging and this was answered less effectively.

Unit 356
This unit focuses on horse behaviour and welfare. Most candidates showed some knowledge on this unit. The main area of weakness related to questions on environmental enrichment in the stabled horse. Some candidates tended to use anthropomorphic terminology when answering behavioural questions. This use of incorrect terminology requires improvement.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)
The question focused on the influence of evolution on the management of horses in the domestic environment. Most candidates demonstrated a good basic understanding of aspects involved however, breadth and depth of discussion was limited. The higher marked answers demonstrated a better depth of understanding and justification for the influence of evolution. They also showed an ability to bring together information from across the units. Many candidates did not effectively justify their discussion points and provided descriptive lists rather than a discussion.

Most candidates understood the command verbs in the questions correctly. As in previous series scientific and theoretical questions were the least well answered. The depth of understanding in explanations is often weaker on these questions and would be a beneficial area of focus during preparation. Another area for consideration to increase marks is on candidate ability to bring together information from across the content and to show an ability to justify discussion points in the extended response question.

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)](cityandguilds.com)