

0172-506 – Level 3 Technicals in Equine Management – Theory Exam (2)

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:

0172-506 – Level 3 Technicals in Equine Management – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

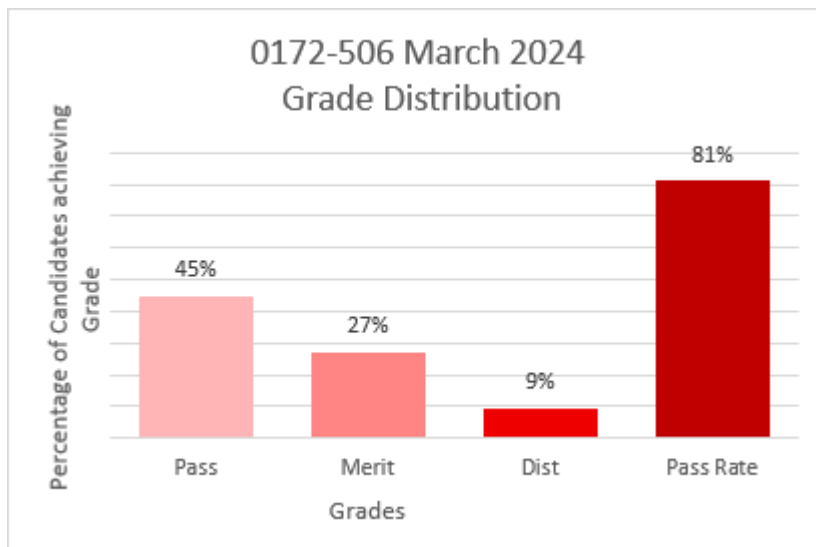
Assessment: **0172-506**

Series: **March 2024**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	23
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	41

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: 0172-506

Series 1 (March)

Candidates generally showed a good ability to read and understand the questions and gave answers that related to the specific content of the questions. Candidates did not often address the question properly and talked around the topic rather than answering the specifics of the question. It was noted this series that fewer candidates incorrectly gave detailed explanations on the 'identify' and 'state' (AO1) questions compared to previous series. This allows them more time to answer questions that require more detailed explanations.

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. The questions which asked for explanations to show 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. Where suitable explanations were given, they showed more breadth and depth on questions relating to practical understanding and questions which asked for the practical application of theory. The least effective answers were seen on highly theoretical and scientific questions mainly related to unit 355. This has also been seen in previous series.

Unit 355

This unit focuses on equine feeding and nutrition. The strengths in this unit were questions where candidates were required to explain the impact of food palatability and identify digestive processes in the digestive system. The main areas of weaknesses were topics covering the structure of proteins, the impact of food palatability and the processes of hindgut fermentation.

Unit 358

This unit focuses on the principles of equitation. This unit was generally answered better than 355. Strengths were shown in questions relating to types of rider aids and explaining pole work exercises to improve horse technique. The main area of weakness was a question about achieving good contact when riding on the flat.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

This question focused on the nutritional and training considerations of improving a horse that is under weight and has lost confidence when jumping. Candidates were mostly able to give answers that related to the specific content of the question and showed an ability to discuss different aspects of the question but, as in previous series, these discussion points could have been expanded further to show a greater depth of understanding. The stronger answers showed a greater depth of understanding and justification for nutritional and training strategies. They also showed an ability to bring together information from across the units. Many candidates did not effectively justify their discussion points which limited the marks they gained. Focus on improving candidate ability to appraise and explain reasons for answers and justify decisions will enable candidates to move towards the higher mark banding.

Overall, focussing on improving exam technique will enable candidates to manage their answers more appropriately and will help them to improve demonstration of their specific knowledge and understanding in relation to the questions. The more scientific and theoretical questions were the least well answered for many candidates. The depth of understanding in explanations is often weaker on these questions and would be a beneficial area of focus during qualification delivery.

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-and-training/courses)