

0173-009/509 – Level 3 Land and Wildlife 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;
0173-009/509 – Level 3 Land and Wildlife Management - Theory exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

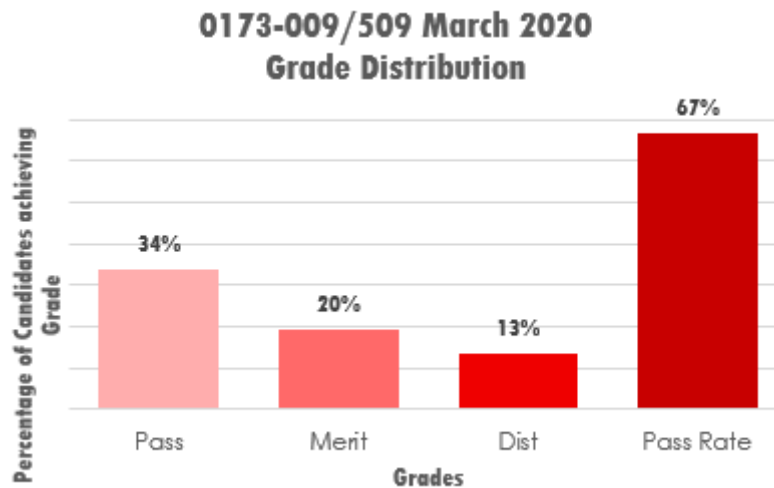
Assessment: **0173-009/509**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
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: 0173-009/509

Series 1 (March)

The paper provided questions with a good range of difficulty level both between and within individual questions, allowing the lower level candidates to access some marks whilst providing opportunities for the more able candidates to develop their answers to gain higher marks, especially in 'cause and effect' questions, but also in the knowledge questions where a number of marks were available.

Overall, candidates showed **strength** in:

- Energy transfers in plants and animals.
- Nutrient leaching.
- Polygamous breeding systems.

Many candidates struggled with a number of the questions relating to scientific principles and processes and their application, for example confusing physical and chemical properties of water, unable to identify types of weathering of rocks in soil formation, or struggling to explain how woodland ride management affects soils or moisture ability.

Themes that discriminated between candidates included questions on the environmental processes of primary and secondary succession, historic influences which have shaped woodland cover in the UK and use of surveys to identify woodland types.

The extended response question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the units. In the extended response question, many candidates' responses tended to be of a lower quality than responses to AO1 and AO2 questions. There was, however, more evidence of answer plans being used by candidates to inform their responses. A number of candidates concentrated exclusively on woodland management techniques and failed to discuss physical factors. Some candidates addressed the fact that the scenario related to two different areas of the UK and discussed relevant physical factors and their influence on choice of tree species and woodland management.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates also need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper and need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.

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

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/environment-countryside-and-conservation/0173-technical-in-land-wildlife-management#tab=information>