Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Land and Wildlife Management (540) (0173-35)

2023

Qualification Report

Contents

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.
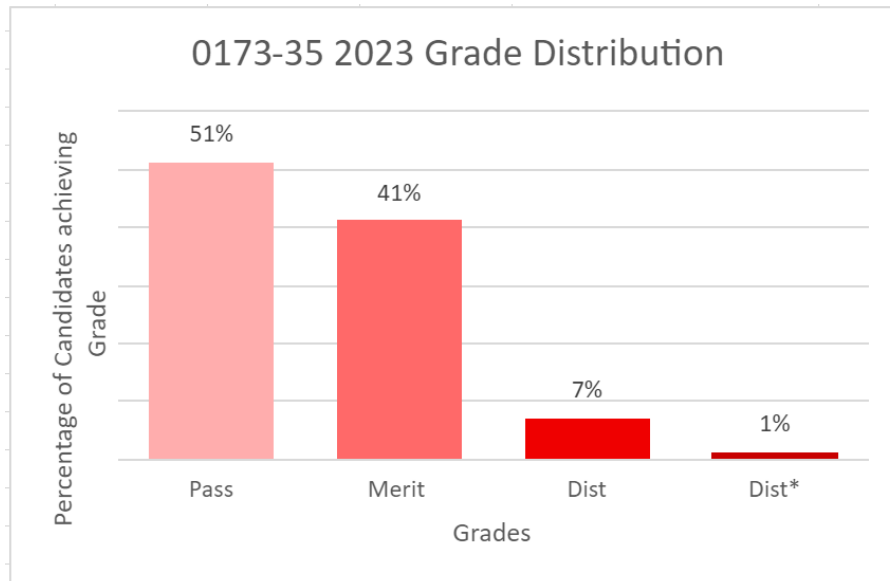
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2023 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- All pathways (Countryside, Game, Fisheries)
  - 0173-501/001 Land and Wildlife Management – Theory Exam.
    - March 2023 (Spring)
    - June 2023 (Summer)
  - 0173-004 Land and Wildlife Management – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:

0173-35 2023 Grade Distribution

Percentage of Candidates achieving Grade

Grade	Percentage
Pass	51%
Merit	41%
Dist	7%
Dist*	1%

Grades

This data is based on the distribution as of 11th August 2023.

Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.
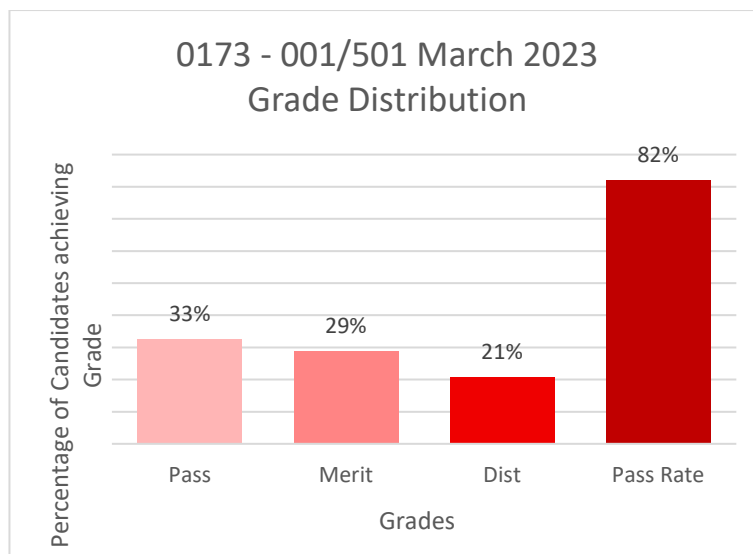
Theory Exam

Grade Boundaries

Assessment: **0173-501/001**
Series: **March 2023 (Spring)**

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 distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:
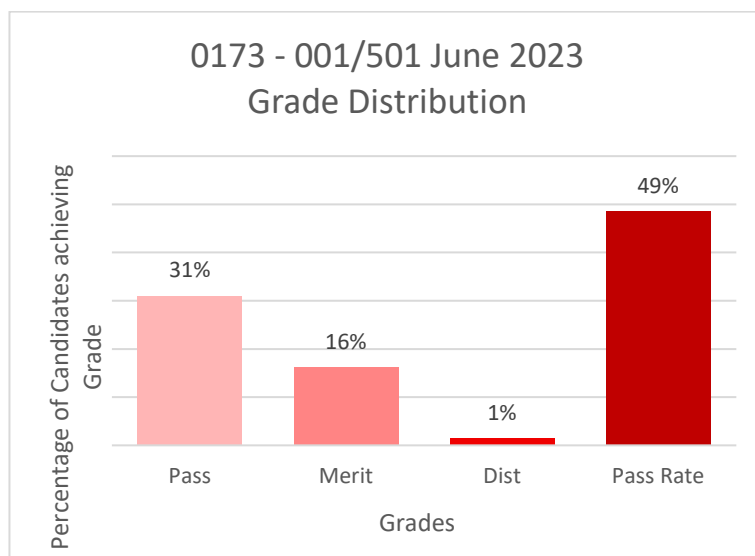
Assessment: **0173-501/001**
Series: **June 2023 (Summer)**

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:

Chief Examiner Commentary

0173-501/001 Land and Wildlife Management - Theory exam

Series 1 – March 2023

The question paper was balanced and covered a good range of knowledge and understanding from across the units and was comparable with pervious papers. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth. Overall candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to March 2022.

The candidates who achieved higher marks answered all questions thoroughly and showed excellent breadth and depth of knowledge that was backed up by relevant examples. They demonstrated relevant knowledge on materials for paths and power sources for machinery. Some candidates' performance was stronger in the recall questions but there was a general briefness to explanations and discussions from this cohort.

Many candidates demonstrated good understanding of the range of materials available for laying paths, they were able to suggest suitable sources of power for machinery. Candidates were also able to recall suitable PPE and explain its purpose when laying a hedge.

Topic areas of questions that were answered well:
- Materials for paths.
- Hedge laying.
- Power sources for machinery.

Topic areas of questions that were not answered well:
- COSHH relating to machinery.
- Vantage point surveys.
- CROW Act.
- Calculation of hedge plants.

Candidates need to read questions carefully and to respond to the command verbs appropriately eg providing a description in a describe question. Responses in some areas did not relate to what was being asked eg a question requiring candidates to justify the use of vantage point surveys, many responses referenced the purpose of the surveys, not answering the question.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)
Candidates were required to discuss factors in the creation of a community wildflower meadow from an area of scrub land. This question gave candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their breadth of knowledge and understanding across units. Candidates were gained higher marks in this question when discussing all factors and correctly linking back to the scenario. Lower marks were awarded when candidates only discussed the creation of a wildflower meadow and did not include the scrub removal. On the whole this cohort performed well on this question, with most candidates achieving band 2.

Centres are strongly advised to ensure that candidates are familiar with the different command verbs and the type of responses required and to the level expected eg providing a description for a describe question.
Candidates would benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this exam, to fully understand the requirements of the question before attempting to answer and learn how to plan for extended response questions.

Series 2 – June 2023

The question paper was balanced and covered a good range of knowledge and understanding from across the units and was comparable with pervious papers. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth.

Candidates who achieved higher marks answered all questions thoroughly and demonstrated good breadth and depth of knowledge that was backed up by correct relevant examples. Candidates that performed well in this examination demonstrated relevant knowledge on materials for paths and power sources for machinery. Some candidates' performance was stronger in the recall questions but there was a general briefness to explanations and discussions, which limited the range of marks available to them.

Many candidates demonstrated good understanding of the factors to consider when constructing a path. Candidates were also able to explain how modern farming has impacted global biological diversity.

Topic areas of questions that were answered well:
- Impacts on global wildlife populations.
- Machinery use.
- Considerations for undertaking footpath construction.

Topic areas of questions that were not answered well:
- Health and Safety regulations.
- Machinery maintenance.
- Kick sampling.

The majority of candidates were unable to recall taxonomic levels, types of ecological pyramids, or to describe how the Ramsar convention helps species conservation.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

Candidates were required to discuss the effect of different management techniques on the biodiversity and population interactions, and predator and prey relationships of a grassland in a country park. This question allowed candidates to demonstrate their breadth of knowledge and understanding of factors across all units. Candidates were gained higher marks in this question when discussing all factors and correctly linking to the scenario. Candidates who achieved lower marks only discussed one element of the scenario eg focussing only on biodiversity and not contextualising this to the question. The majority of candidates lacked breadth and depth and obtained marks in band 1, a small number of candidates entered band 2, and none achieved marks in band 3.

Centres are strongly advised to ensure that candidates are familiar with the different command verbs and the type of responses required and to the level expected eg providing a description for a describe question.
Candidates would benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this exam, to fully understand the requirements of the question before attempting to answer and learn how to plan for extended response questions.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here:
Technicals in Land & Wildlife Management qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds (cityandguilds.com)

Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries
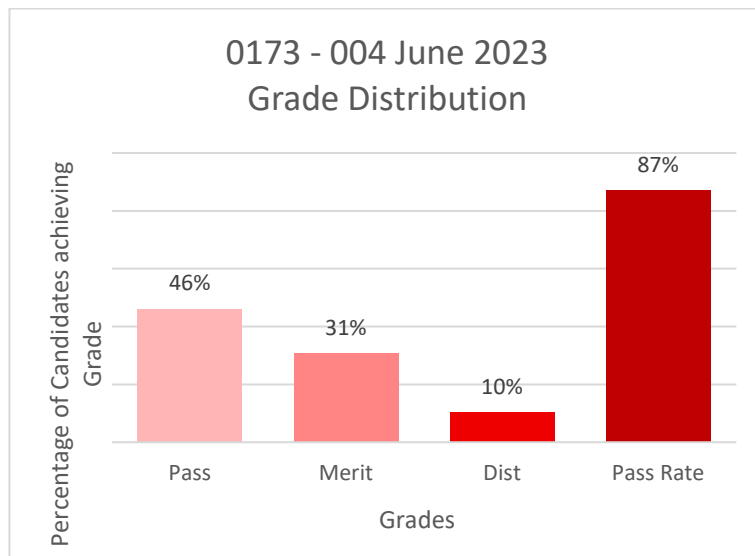
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Assessment: **0173-004**
Series: **2023**

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	45

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:

Principal Moderator Commentary

The synoptic assignment brief centred around the candidate working as an ecologist for a local company and is required to carry out a habitat survey to support a planning application for development of recreational activities for a client on an estate. The practical tasks within the assessment required candidates to plan, carry out and then report on a Phase 1 Habitat Survey. They were required to produce a PowerPoint presentation recommending recreational activities that would be suitable based on the results of their survey. Candidates were also required to complete a risk assessment.

AO1 20% of marks: Candidates recall on species identification was varied but and some candidates identified habitats and referenced the JNCC handbook. The justifications provided by candidates for the recommended recreational activity (task 2) was sometimes unrealistic for the site surveyed, and the rationale for their choice was not always clear. Risk assessments require more work as candidates did not always identify specific hazards and relevant methods of control. Candidates demonstrated some recall of knowledge when identifying tools and equipment and provided suitable explanations of why the work was undertaken.

AO2 20% of marks: Most candidates showed a good breadth of knowledge, but the depth of understanding and links to wider concepts varied greatly. This was demonstrated through candidates survey reports and the introduction of new recreational activities in the powerpoint. Candidates practical work showed understanding of the work they had undertaken and the safety implications through their risk assessments.

AO3 30% of marks: Although some photos were provided, the marks awarded to candidates were mainly based on concise PO reports, which contained details of what was completed by the candidates as well as how well they performed.

AO4 20% of marks: Candidate performance varied when bringing the synoptic together.. Higher marks were awarded when links between tasks were explained and candidates used their knowledge, understanding and skills to bring together the information across the synoptic.

AO5 10% of marks: Candidates performance varied on the level of attention to detail. There were some formatting issues in reports as labels on images were often missing, and some images were not in colour. Titles were also missing and attention to detail was not always shown. Some risk assessments were incomplete, and some candidates did not complete tasks fully. Hazards were missed and unidentified, and sometimes unrealistic and often general and not specific to the site. Some candidates demonstrated a good level of attention to detail and focus on the assessment objectives.

Best practice

Most centres provided tutor written feedback of the candidates' practical performance which was detailed and clearly showed the quality of the candidate's performance across all AO's within the practical tasks. This written Practical Observation (PO) Form evidence is the **key** evidence required for moderation of the practical tasks in the synoptic assessment. Some centres produced PO forms that were limited in detail and/or were providing feedback on understanding/skills in incorrect boxes on the PO form. Some centres did not always link the tutor feedback to the bandings in the assessment objective marking grid or provide detail on areas for improvement within each assessment objective. Focusing on the quality and clarity of the tutor written feedback is essential moving forward.

There were several occurrences where the overall marks on the Candidate Record Form (CRF) had been added up incorrectly. There were also occasions where candidate evidence was missing from the moderation portal or signatures were missing from candidate declaration forms,

and a smaller number of occurrences where declaration forms were not uploaded to the moderation portal. Care should be taken to ensure these administrative aspects are correct when marking and uploading to the moderation portal.

Where there is more than one marker within the qualification, centres should ensure that the evidence that is uploaded for each candidate is in the same detail and is consistent across the cohort. A small number of centres uploaded tutor written evidence on the POF and CRF that varied in detail across assessors. A consistent standardised approach between markers will enable the moderation process to be undertaken without hindrance.

Where tutor and candidate evidence is uploaded in a handwritten format, care should be taken to ensure all evidence is fully legible and that both sides of the paper/evidence are scanned. It is best practice to word process evidence.

Overall, most centres produced high quality evidence which aided the moderation process. Best practice is seen with the inclusion of the following evidence for each candidate as **one** document.

- Signed and dated declaration of authenticity.
- Detailed CRF (one completed for the entire assessment). AO3 written feedback on the CRF which summarises the quality of the practical performance.
- Detailed POF's or centre produced equivalent which focuses on the quality of candidate performance across the different AO's. These can be separate for different tasks or brought together on one form.
- Candidate written work. Tutor annotations on written work are beneficial for moderation purposes.