0172-30 Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Animal Management

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.
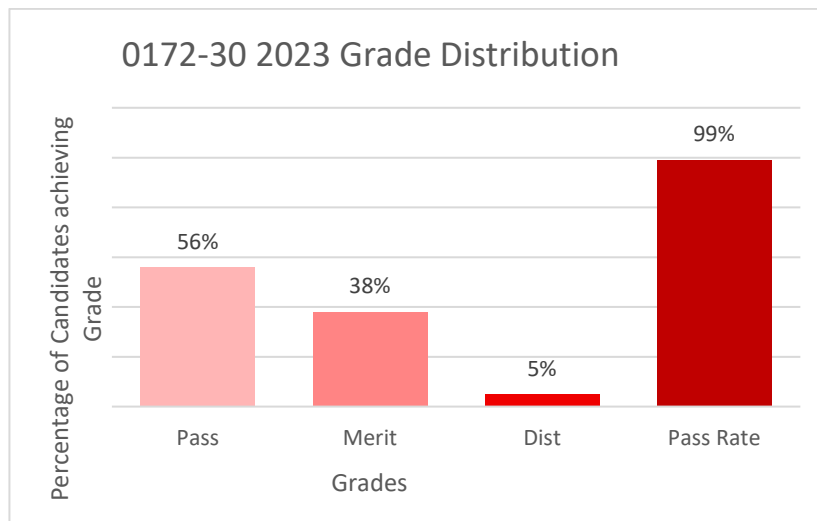
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments 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:

- 0172-031/531 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Animal Management (Theory exam)
    - March 2023
    - June 2023

- 0172-030 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Animal Management (Synoptic Assignment)

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:

The data is based on the distribution as of 17 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

0172-531/031 - Level 3 Animal Management – Theory Exam (1)
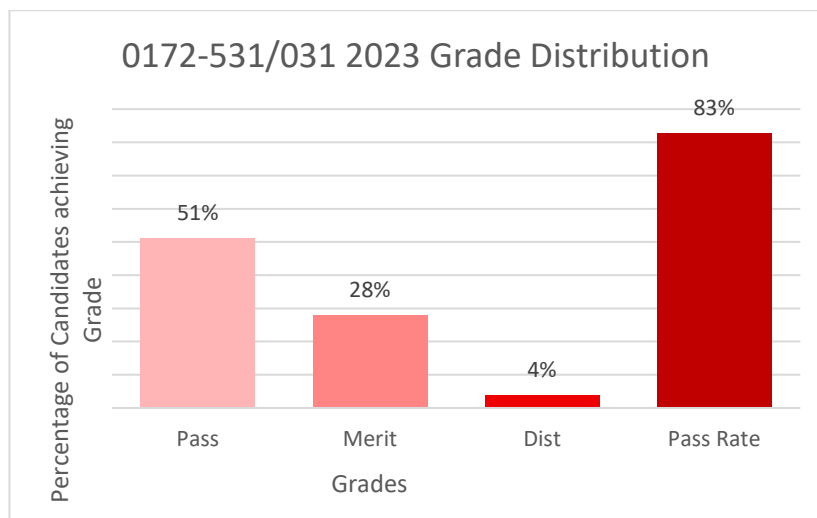
Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0172-531/031
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	35
Distinction mark	45

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:
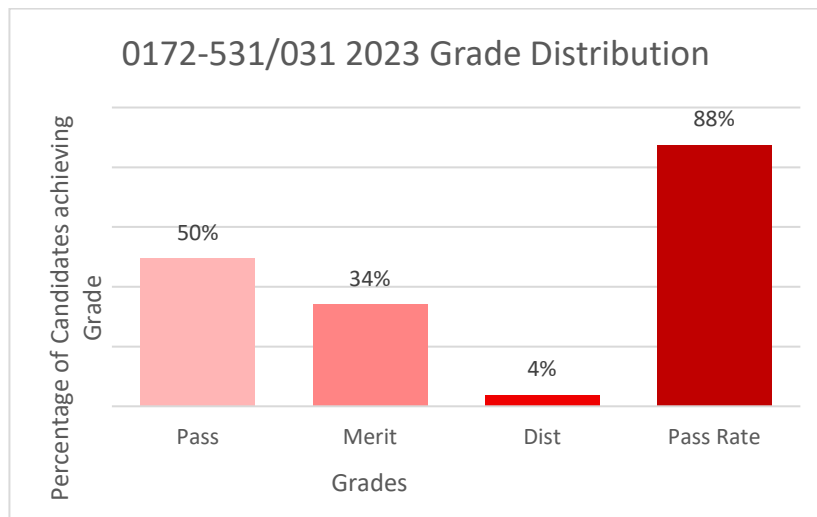
Assessment: 0172-531/031

Series: June 2023 (Summer)

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	46

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

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Chief Examiner Commentary

0172-531/031 - Level 3 Animal Management – Theory Exam (1)

Series 1 (March)

Cohort performance has improved compared to the 2022 series, with an average mark of 30.9 which shows a considerable improvement compared to the equivalent 2022 series.

Candidates generally showed good recall in most key areas and were often able to gain marks in questions that required recall of knowledge. Although it is noted that there was an improvement in candidates' exam technique compared to the previous series, there are still areas to focus upon, particularly with lower achieving candidates who were unable to provide clear explanations or show retention of knowledge in their answers. Many candidates lost marks in questions requiring explanations or descriptions. Some candidates offered statements or lists of facts instead, therefore not giving sufficient explanations to demonstrate understanding.

Unit 303 – This unit focuses on **Animal Health and Husbandry**. Strengths for this unit were around notifiable diseases, although some candidates did miss out on marks here due to repeating explanations and providing a generalised discussion around the statement provided. Candidates also showed depth of understanding in the application of diagnostic tests. Many candidates were not able to recall key legislation, and many struggled to provide an understanding of the impact of parasites. Centres need to cover all the specification within their teaching to ensure candidates are familiar with terminology and are able to demonstrate the required levels of knowledge and understanding.

Unit 304 – This unit focuses on **Animal Feeding and Nutrition**. Strengths for this unit were seen in food provision. This unit overall was not as successful for candidates, as it was hoped, in that many candidates lost marks due to a lack of knowledge of the function of nutrients and digestive processes. Many candidates were also unable to identify an incorrect diet for a specified common species and therefore were unable to discuss the impact of the of said diet. Centres should, again, ensure technical terminology is used frequently to allow candidates to become accustomed to specific terms and their meanings. Centres should cover the breadth of the specification to ensure candidates have a fair chance to gain sufficient marks.

Unit 305 – This unit focuses on **Animal Behaviour and Communication**. Overall candidates performed well in a number of questions and were able to show knowledge and understanding of avian courtship behaviours, and identification of behaviour types and learning techniques. Candidates did, however, struggle to pick up marks when explaining the impact of a specified season, but they were often able to provide breath of knowledge in this area. Candidates ought to focus on exam technique and practice providing the cause and effect within their answers.

The extended response question focused on considerations that should be made when assessing the suitability of a home for a specified animal. Many candidates provided simplistic explanations that were not necessarily linked to the given scenario, often offering lists of considerations with mostly basic explanations. Some candidates were able to provide explanations which showed the required level of understanding, allowing them to access higher marks. Where candidates did not achieve the higher band marks, they did not provide sufficient justifications for their considerations.

Series 2 – June 2023

Cohort performance in June 2023 shows improvement when compared to the March 2023 series, with an average mark of 35.4. This also shows a considerable improvement in comparison to the June 2022 series.

Candidates generally showed good recall in most key areas and were often gaining marks in questions that required recall of knowledge. However, many candidates were often unable to achieve higher end marks in questions requiring explanations or descriptions.
It is noted that whilst both 2023 series shows an improvement in candidates' exam technique compared to the previous series, there are still areas to focus upon, particularly with lower achieving candidates who were unable to provide clear explanations or show knowledge in their answers.

Unit 303 – This unit focuses on **Animal Health and Husbandry**. Strengths for this unit were seen in commonly administered vaccinations. Although some candidates were able to achieve full marks, those that did not were often unable to provide full responses showing the lack of breadth and depth of knowledge. Some candidates also showed depth of understanding in the application of DEFRA guidelines for notifiable diseases. Many candidates were not able to accurately recall signs of a specified disease. Centres should cover all the specification within their teaching to ensure candidates are familiar with terminology and are able to demonstrate the required levels of knowledge and understanding.

Unit 304 – This unit focuses on **Animal Feeding and Nutrition** Strengths for this unit were around functions of nutrients. Although some candidates were able to achieve full marks, those that did not were often unable to provide a second function to the stated nutrient or they repeated the same answer. Many candidates also showed depth of understanding when explaining why a specified food type was appropriate for a chosen species and life stage. Candidates struggled to recall specific information relating to nutrition calculations. Centres should, again, ensure technical terminology is used frequently to allow candidates to become accustomed to specific terms and their meanings. Centres should cover the breadth of the specification to ensure candidates have a fair chance to gain sufficient marks.

Unit 305 – This unit focuses on **Animal Behaviour and Communication**. Overall candidates performed well in a number of questions and were able to show knowledge and understanding of feeding behaviours and interspecific communication. Candidates were not, however, able to pick up marks when stating the difference in behaviours between wild and domestic species. Some candidates missed out on marks due to lack of execution when providing the cause and effect within their answers.

The extended response question focused on considerations that should be made prior to putting a specified animal up for adoption. Many candidates provided simplistic explanations that were not fully linked to the given scenario, often offering basic explanations. Some candidates were able to provide explanations which showed the required level of understanding and valid links to the scenario, allowing them to access higher marks. Where candidates did not achieve the higher band marks, they did not provide sufficient justifications for their considerations.

City & Guilds has produced a technical exam guide to support the work on the exam technique, which is available to download from
https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/animal-management/0172-technicals-in-animal-care-management-and-equine-care-management#tab=documents

Centres opting for paper-based examinations should remind candidates that if their handwriting is illegible marks cannot be awarded.

Synoptic Assignment

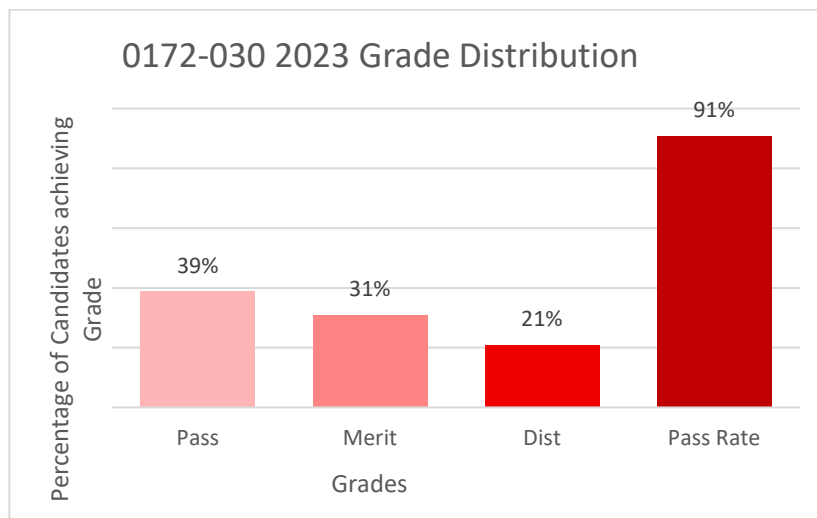## 0172-030 - Level 3 Animal Management – Synoptic assignment (1)

Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0172-030
Series: 2023

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	43

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

Principal Moderator Commentary

There were four tasks in this synoptic assignment covering a range of topics such as Animal Health, Animal Husbandry, and Animal Behaviour.

Task 1 required candidates to produce an advice sheet on Sarcoptic Mange to include signs, symptoms, treatment and biosecurity. All candidates were able to produce an advice sheet, with some candidates producing a detailed advice sheet that went into the disease in detail, whilst others gave a brief overview. As candidates had access to research, this task was expected to perform well. Centres should ensure that candidates have covered all the unit content in sufficient detail to allow them to utilise their knowledge and understanding effectively to cover all elements within the topic.

Task 2 required candidates to carry out a daily husbandry routine. Some candidates demonstrated high levels of knowledge and understanding. Some candidates were not able to carry out the routine with sufficient detail and skill. It was noted that many centres are still not following recommended practice when capturing evidence for the practical tasks. Centres are reminded that they are required to provide commentary that reflects the quality of the candidate's performance rather than the detail of what the candidate is doing throughout the task. Centres should also provide the required detail when describing the quality of the candidate's performance. For example, if noting that the candidate is dextrous and fluid in their approach and can problem solve, centres should indicate how the candidate is demonstrating dexterity or fluidity and how they are able to solve problems.

Task 3 expected candidates to carry out an evaluation of their performance. Many candidates commented on what they did and why they did it rather than how effective they were. Many candidates also provided a brief report on how their routine should be adapted whilst others gave a more in-depth report with clear justifications.

Task 4 focussed on carrying out a behavioural observation and reporting the animal's behaviour. Most candidates performed the observation well. It has been noted that some centres permitted interaction with the animals (eg taking a dog on a walk) during the observation, which influences the readings of the animal's behaviour. When studying animal's behaviour, it is imperative that the observer should not affect the behaviour in any way. Some candidates observed the animal when they were either resting or hiding (out of sight). The assignment brief clearly states that centres should give candidates every opportunity to capture a range of behaviours at the time of observation. Centres are also reminded that candidates must use forms provided by City & Guilds and that alternative centre-devised forms are not permitted.