

5220-020/520 Level 2 Technical Award in Digital Technologies

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:

5220-020/520 Level 2 Technical Award in Digital Technologies – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

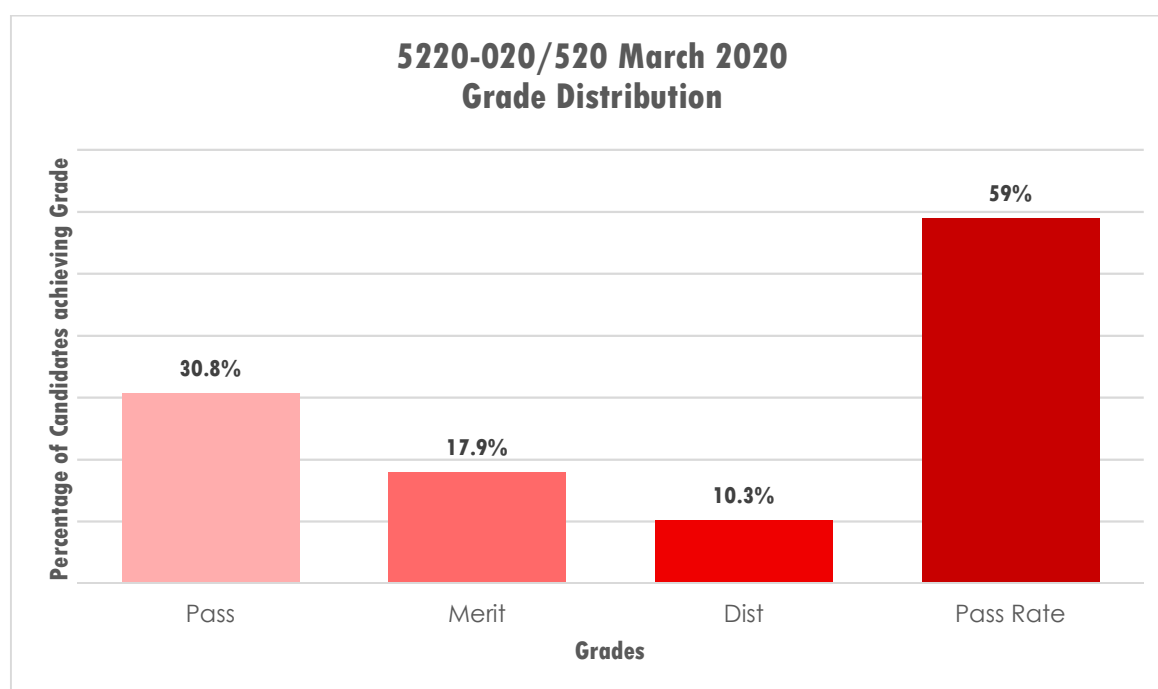
Assessment: **5220-020/520**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	80
Pass mark	31
Merit mark	43
Distinction mark	56

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: 5220-020/520

Series 1 (March)

The examination paper covered a range of unit content and the associated effects on organisations, and was comparable with previous series in demand, structure and scope. Candidates generally performed better in questions dealing with recall of knowledge than against other assessment objectives. Strengths were seen in topics covering storage and charts, but there were some weaknesses in identification of relevant legislation. Overall, however, performance of this cohort was weaker than the previous spring cohort, with reductions in achievement in all grade bands.

There was evidence of candidates performing well in recall questions and stronger candidates demonstrated knowledge and understanding through giving more detailed and precise answers. They also used the stem of the question to provide the scope for their answers and sometimes included their own experiences that related to the scenario. Candidates that accessed higher marks demonstrated deeper thinking when asked to consider impact, benefits and drawbacks, or to illustrate the practical use of a topic in context.

There was notable weakness when relating themes or topics to issues faced by organisations. Candidates continue to struggle with questions relating to database technologies and are sometimes unable to offer a second distinct point in explanations, thereby limiting their chances to earn marks. In many cases, the responses contained duplicate explanations, sometimes simply repeating the stem of the question using slightly different words.

In the Extended Response Questions, set against AO4, candidates were given two scenarios. The first asked them to consider the effective use of social media in product promotion. The second scenario asked them to discuss approaches used in market research.

The candidates produced a broad range of quality in their answers. In the best responses, the candidates related their answers to the scenario set in the stem and used it as a framework to provide a coherent and logical response. These candidates moved beyond simple statements of fact to explain their meaning and to discuss relevant advantages or alternatives. Where responses were less effective, candidates failed to relate their answers to the scenario and often failed to give sufficient depth of explanation.

Where candidates performed well they had been well prepared for the test in terms of technique, as well as knowledge and understanding. Centres are advised to continue practising exam technique and to further develop AO2 skills so that candidates can give fully developed answers.

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

https://www.cityandguilds.com/-/media/productdocuments/digital_and_it/it_professional/5220/level_2/assessment_materials/theory_exam/exam_guides/5220-20_technicals-exam-guide_020_520-pdf.ashx