

5220-022/522 Level 2 Technical Certificate 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:

5220-022/522 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Digital Technologies – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

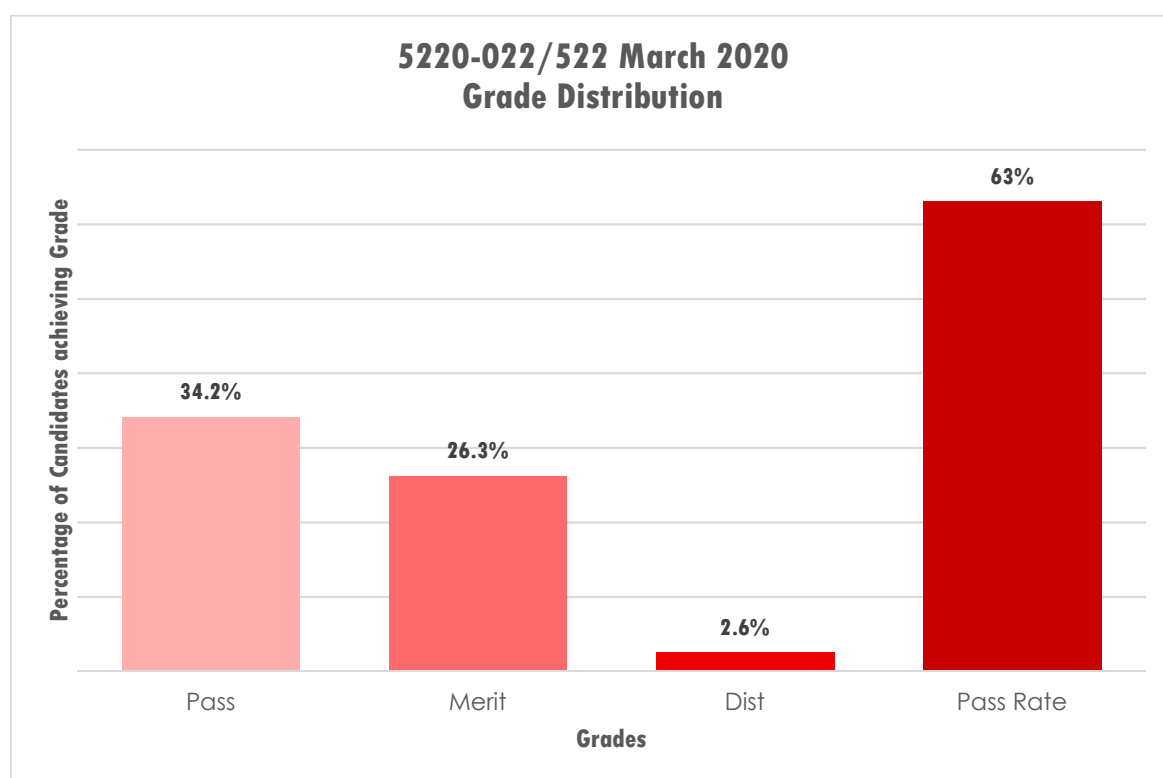
Assessment: **5220-022/522**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	80
Pass mark	32
Merit mark	42
Distinction mark	53

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: 5220-022/522

Series 1 (March)

In this series the overall performance of candidates indicated that centres took care in the preparation for the test. It was clear that better candidates had undertaken good processes of revision and had been prepared in terms of examination technique as well as in knowledge and understanding.

Overall achievement rates were higher than those for the previous spring series, notably in those candidates achieving the pass and merit grades, but there were fewer distinction grades in this cohort.

The questions requiring recall of knowledge set against AO1 were generally well answered and many candidates provided good lists of relevant items relating to hardware, cyber security and operating systems. It is notable that in this series there were more candidates achieving full marks in recall questions than has been seen in previous series, both for spring and summer. It is clear that well-prepared candidates have been given good guidance by their centres on which areas of the specification to revise to enable efficient recall of items relating to topics.

In questions requiring candidates to demonstrate understanding set against AO2, there was a wide variance in the quality of the responses provided by candidates.

In stronger answers, candidates illustrated their understanding through examples of practical use of a technology, and they used relevant technical terms. Many candidates were able to link effects to their own practical experience of the use of software, hardware and social media.

Some explanations were vague and lacked the depth required to demonstrate understanding. There were notable gaps in questions dealing with the use of technology in an organisation when supporting their own processes and their 'end users'. It is still clear that some candidates were not able to provide a second part of an explanation to demonstrate depth of understanding.

The paper included two Extended Response Questions set against AO4. The first scenario asked candidates to discuss appropriate lifecycles used in development of apps. The second scenario asked candidates to consider aspects of network design for use in retail.

Performance in the Extended Response Question set against AO4 was better than in previous series. More candidates achieved marks in the higher bands, thereby making a significant contribution to the overall mark. Better candidate responses included explanations and occasional discussions of topics relevant to the scenario.

It is still the case that many candidates find it difficult to move beyond explanation into the discussion required to access marks in the top band. Where this was achieved, candidates had provided analysis through consideration of advantages or disadvantages, or they had offered alternatives to the item considered. These skills, seen in stronger candidates, will have a high value to them as they progress in their education and should be promoted by centres.

Overall, centres are advised to assist candidates with developing their technique in fully answering AO2 questions. Candidates need to make sure that they evidence depth of understanding by giving the second point, and build on explanations in the Extended Response Questions to provide discussion. Furthering these skills will assist candidates in accessing higher marks.

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/5220-21_technicals-exam-guide_022_522-pdf.ashx