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

March 2023

Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Principal 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 2023** 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;
5220-520/020 Level 2 Technical Award in Digital Technologies – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2023
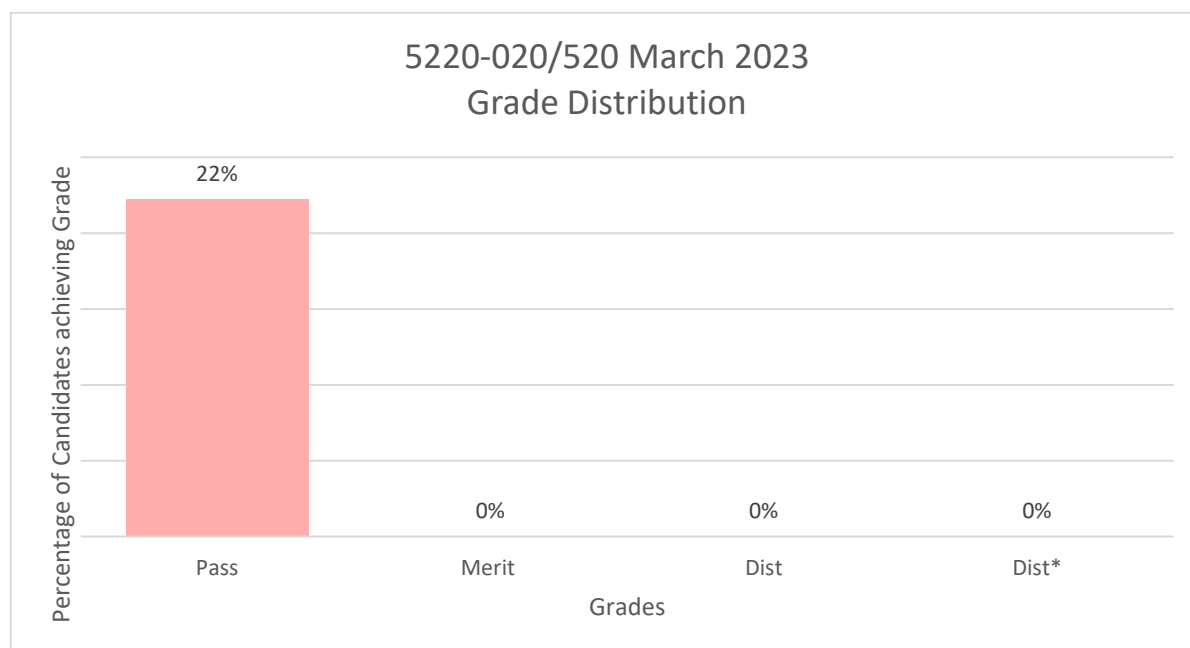
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **5220-520/020**
Series: **March 2023**

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:

5220-020/520 March 2023
Grade Distribution

Grade	Percentage
Pass	22%
Merit	0%
Dist	0%
Dist*	0%

Percentage of Candidates achieving Grade (y-axis) vs Grades (x-axis)

Principal Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 5220-520/020

Series 1 (March)

The test had a small cohort of entries from one centre and all responses were submitted through the paper-based testing system. It should be noted by centres that candidates can be authorised to use word processing software to complete the exam if sufficient information is provided in advance.

The exam was deemed to be comparable with previous tests used in previous series. The structure and scope of the exam was identical. As with all previous exams, candidates were tested on items directly included in the unit content and their effect when used in organisations.

Performance in AO1 Knowledge and AO2 Understanding was broadly similar with candidates in the first AO being challenged on questions dealing with Network Security, Compression, Editing, File Types and the use of business-focused Software Applications. Strong responses were seen in questions dealing with Network Topology, Compression and Editing of digital images, and Securing networks. Weaker responses were seen in Application Software, Network Protocols, Engaging a Target Audience, Digital Communications Channels, Charts and Designing websites. Most candidates understood what standalone software was, however centres are advised to use generic terms rather than brand names. No candidate was able to explain Voice over IP (VoIP) or demonstrate an understanding of Databases.

The responses for AO2 questions were incomplete and lacked detail. This seemed to be an effect from failing to use the stem of the question, e.g. relating to benefit especially around types of digital communications, to provide focus for their answers. Often, candidates failed to provide a second part to their response that allowed them to demonstrate their depth of understanding, rather than simply their knowledge, this led to a loss of at least 50% of marks for AO2 questions.

Answers to extended response questions, set against AO4, produced a limited range of quality in answers. Two relevant scenarios were provided allowing candidates to consider topics across the whole scope of the qualification, and they were asked to provide structured responses discussing options that might be considered in the scenario set. In the best responses a middle band of answer was provided, the candidates related their answers to the scenario set in the stem and used it to provide a framework that was used to provide a logical answer. However, the vast majority of candidates were only able to achieve a mark in the lower band and no candidates achieved marks in the higher band.

In the weaker responses it was evident that the candidates were unfamiliar with the type of response expected. Centres should support candidates to develop a strategy that can be used as a framework to build an effective, structured response and also make use of the scenario outlined in the stem to define the scope of content. It was clear in some of these responses that candidates could identify some relevant scope but could not expand their responses from lists of facts into useful explanations, analyses or discussions.

Overall, only a limited number of candidates were able to provide the responses required across the different styles of questions.

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