

5220-030/530 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Digital Technologies – Theory Exam

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:

5220-030/530 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Digital Technologies – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

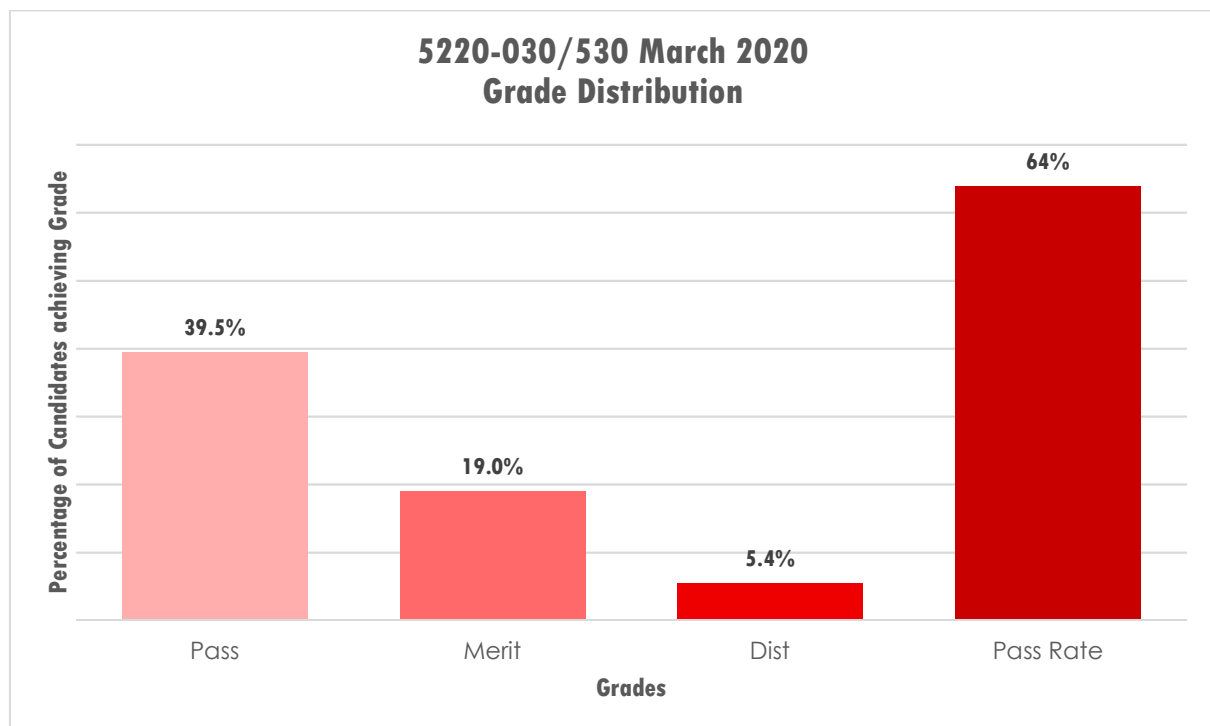
Assessment: **5220-030/530**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	80
Pass mark	33
Merit mark	44
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: 5220-030/530

Series 1 (March)

The scope of the paper and the style of questions asked were comparable with previous series. The general performance of the candidates was similar across the cohort with some evidence of good performance.

In common with previous tests, well-prepared candidates provided confident and fluent answers and focussed closely on the scope of the questions asked. Centre preparation for A02 knowledge type questions, alongside AO1 recall, was evident, as stronger candidates were able to approach the explanation of topics well. These higher achieving candidates also gave coherent and well-constructed answers to the Extended Response Questions.

The paper covered a broad range of topics across the content of the core units. Many candidates gave good answers when demonstrating both knowledge and understanding and, once again, candidates were well-prepared for questions covering aspects of Project Management, and the roles assumed by those responsible for aspects of the projects. It was also noticeable that there was progress in the area of Information Security where there was some evidence of more effective answers and use of accurate technical language across the range of questions set.

However, areas of poor performance remained largely consistent across series. Despite improvements, the Information Security topics revealed gaps in learning and understanding, most notably in the consideration of Access Control Key Management in the use of Public/Private Key Infrastructure. Some candidates failed to read the precise scope of questions and provided responses that were not relevant.

In topics relating to Network Fundamentals, many candidates provided inadequate explanations around the role of the different layers of the models used in the establishment of protocols. Many provided partial answers and candidates failed to capitalise on knowledge in order to give full explanations when asked to demonstrate their understanding.

Questions on the development of software produced very few indications of strong knowledge and understanding across the full scope of the unit. Many answers were vague, failing to demonstrate the required understanding. A lack of capacity to explain concepts was demonstrated by some candidates in their responses around constructs and techniques.

The paper included two Extended Response Questions set against AO4. The first scenario asked candidates to consider the creation of a website to support an activity. The second scenario asked candidates to discuss technologies used in the development of applications (apps).

The Extended Response Questions produced some better answers this year and there were only a few examples where candidates just gave a basic lists of facts. Candidates generally tried to provide essay answers and the better ones were coherent and relevant. Candidates in the lower bands demonstrated formulaic responses that lacked both links to the scenario set and the ability to build useful explanations and discussion, using analysis, justification and evaluation.

Centres are encouraged to focus on structured revision, using the scope of the qualification handbook to strengthen responses to tests of knowledge. Where understanding is being assessed, centres must ensure that candidates can take advantage of the two separate marks available for the topic being tested, by giving fully developed answers and, in the Extended

Response Questions, centres must ensure that candidates can create a discussion that relates to the scenario given.

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_3/assessment_materials/theory_exam/exam_guide/5220-30_technicals-exam-guide_030_530_v1_2-pdf.ashx