

3625-534/034 – Level 3 Health and Care – 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;
3625-534/034 Level 3 Health and Care – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

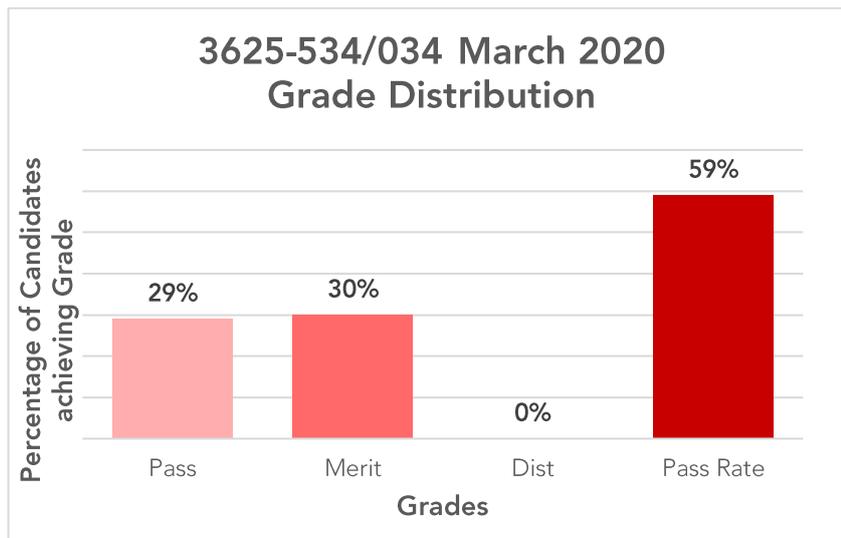
Assessment: **3625-534/034**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	23
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	42

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: 3625-534/034

Series 1 (March)

Candidates' overall performance in the March 2020 paper improved as there was an improved clarity of responses across the paper. Candidates were able to achieve at least one or two marks in each of the topic areas and gave a stronger performance in the A01 recall of knowledge questions.

Despite an improvement in achieving marks consistently across the paper, candidates did not perform well in the Extended Response Question. Although there was an attempt at breadth of responses, this meant that answers were generalised and lacking depth and technical application. Few candidates were able to achieve the higher mark bands.

Topic areas that were answered well included responses for both AO1 (recall of knowledge) and AO2 (Understanding) questions on the structure and functions of the human body and basic science in health care. The candidates had a good understanding of psychological theories and applied them well to the scenarios given. They were also able to provide good responses to questions on the sociology of health, care and wellbeing, for example on the impact of diet or poverty.

Topic areas that were not answered so well included psychology of human behaviours where candidates were asked to identify psychological approaches to research or study. There was little improvement from the March 2019 paper where a similar question appeared. There were some improvements with regards to definitions given for theoretical concepts but still many inaccuracies and some candidates were unable to adequately articulate their meaning. Topic areas that achieved one mark but had responses that were lengthy, unclear, and poorly structured were on the understanding and application of sociological theories.

The Extended Response Question was not answered well by most candidates. Candidates were asked to respond to a scenario in which they provide advice and support to an individual with a chronic respiratory condition. Many candidates did not demonstrate an understanding of the potential impact of this condition. Biological structures and functions relating to the condition were not explained or were inaccurate or lacking technical terms. Opportunities to discuss diagnostic procedures, treatments and potential prognosis were not taken. Candidates had improved their understanding since previous series realising that they needed to include a range of considerations (for health improvements and psychological and sociological approaches) but responses were generalised, lacking technical application and did not demonstrate subject specific understanding.

Centres are advised to revisit current handbooks and previous papers to fine-tune the delivery of their programmes. Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination particularly for the Extended Response Question. Candidates should ensure they use the test specification to consider the range of conditions that might be examined and ensure that they structure their response to the Extended Response Question to consider biological structures and functions first, including diagnostic testing, treatments and prognosis. They should then ensure that they apply the health improvements and psychological and sociological theories in relation to the condition rather than generically.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here https://www.cityandguilds.com/media/productdocuments/health_and_social_care/care/3625/3625_level_3/assessment_materials/3625-034-technical_exam-guidance_2018_v1-1-pdf.ashx