

# **0170-501 – Level 2 Technical Award in Land based studies – Theory exam (1)**

**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;  
**0170-501 Land based studies – Theory exam (1).**

# Theory Exam – March 2020

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

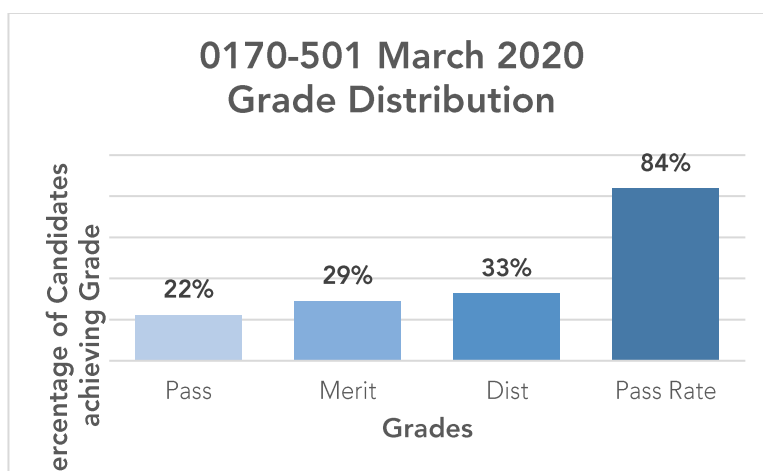
Assessment: **0170-501**

Series: **March 2020**

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	36
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: 0170-501

#### Series 1 (March)

The number of scripts available for marking for this series was 86.

The overall answers from candidates were of a really good standard with only very few giving poor answers leading to low marks.

There was evidence that a lot of planning went into the long answer questions with some extremely well thought out examples. The questions were fair and well worded and gave students with a range of land- based interests a good chance of achieving high marks. Some were quite challenging giving good opportunity for students to excel. Candidates tended to do well on the questions involving livestock, and health and safety.

The short answer questions were of a good level for this paper and covered a wide range of land- based topics. The highest marks overall tended to be from the health and safety - based questions with a high proportion obtaining full marks. Mostly, where full marks were not obtained, it was where candidates only gave three answers instead of the four required. Generally, the animal- based questions were also well answered. However, where candidates did not obtain full marks was because the answer had been repeated twice. E.g. 'Make sure their environment is right for them/ give them the right environment'.

Another subject that candidates tended to do well in was the question concerning what influences the purchase of new equipment. The area that prompted a mixed response were the plant based questions. Very few understood the function of guard cells with quite a lot of answers saying they kept out bacteria or protected the leaf. However, a high proportion achieved over half or full marks for the question on what affects the rate of germination. The other question which proved challenging for candidates was based on scientific principles and how these have helped the land based sector. Approximately 20% of candidates achieved full marks.

A few candidates gave excellent well thought out answers to the extended response question, exploring a range of recommendations to enhance plant growth through the use of technology. Most candidates tended to concentrate on precision farming, the use of GPS systems, Apps on phones, drones and GM technology and RTK.

Some good references to precision application of pesticides and nutrients, relating this back to the effects these can have on the environment. The higher level candidates discussed the effect machinery has on soil and therefore germination and growth rates of plants. Mostly excellent evidence of planning for this type of question.

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

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/agriculture/0170-technical-award-in-land-based-studies#tab=information>

Centres are strongly advised to be familiar with the command verbs their learners may encounter during examinations and the type of responses expected, along with an indication of the qualities that will be looked for during marking.