0171-20 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture

2019

Qualification Report

Contents

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.
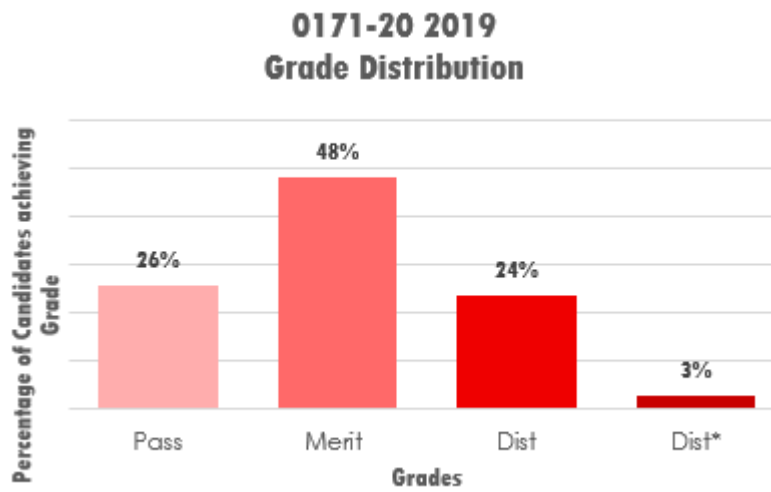
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2019 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 0171-521- Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture – Theory exam
  - March 2019 (Spring)
  - June 2019 (Summer)
- 0171-022 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:

0171-20 2019 Grade Distribution

Percentage of Candidates achieving Grade

Pass	Merit	Dist	Dist*
26%	48%	24%	3%

Grades

Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.
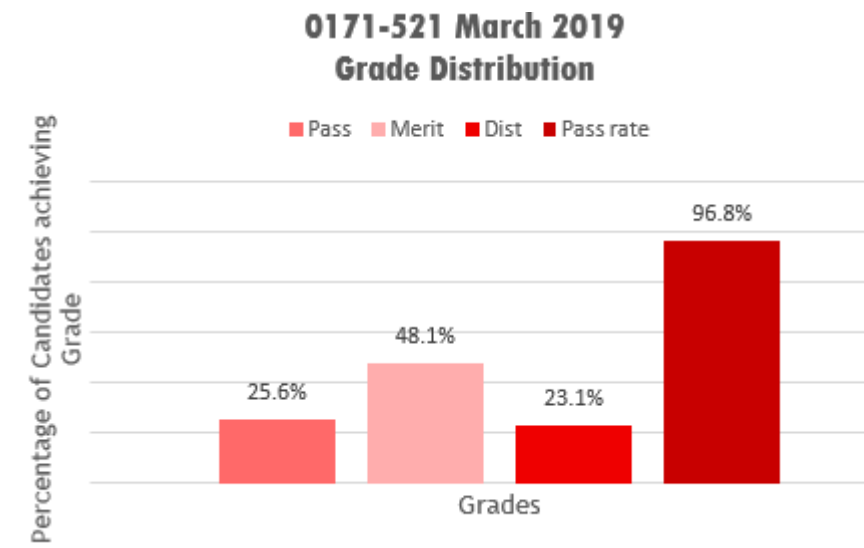
Theory Exam

Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0171-521
Series: March 2019 (Spring)

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

Total marks availible	50
Pass mark	21
Merit mark	28
Distinction mark	36

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:
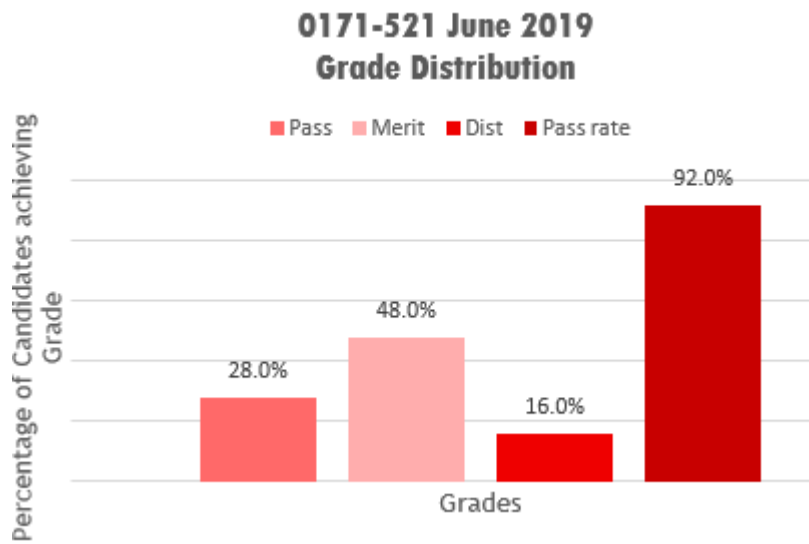
Assessment: 0171-521
Series: June 2019 (Summer)

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

Total marks availible	50
Pass mark	20
Merit mark	28
Distinction mark	36

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:

Chief Examiner Commentary

0171-521- Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture - Theory exam

Series 1 – March 2019

The paper was set at the appropriate level, was consistent with the test specification and featured a mixture of AO1 recall, AO2 understanding and AO4 applied knowledge questions. The question paper contained good questions that makes candidates think in the context of agriculture. The questions require careful reading and good exam technique.

The following units were covered in this assessment:

Unit 203: Crop husbandry
Unit 204: Farm animal production
Unit 206: Physiology of plants and animals
Unit 207: Working in the agricultural industry

Candidates taking this assessment version demonstrated the strongest performance on questions relating to unit 204.

Questions 43-50 were the applied knowledge questions covering a range of content from across all the units above. Candidates were required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding from a range of topics in an integrated approach when attempting these questions.

Candidates would benefit from regular revision sessions to allow them to pull together knowledge and understanding from across the assessed units prior to assessment. Centres should also utilise the support materials available in terms of sample and past papers to ensure candidates are familiar with the question types ahead of the examination.

Series 2 – June 2019

The paper was set at the appropriate level, was consistent with the test specification and featured a mixture of AO1 recall, AO2 understanding and AO4 applied knowledge questions. The question paper contained good questions that makes candidates think in the context of agriculture. The questions require careful reading and good exam technique.

The following units were covered in this assessment:

Unit 203: Crop husbandry
Unit 204: Farm animal production
Unit 206: Physiology of plants and animals
Unit 207: Working in the agricultural industry

Candidates taking this assessment version demonstrated the strongest performance on questions relating to unit 204 whilst the weakest performance was on questions relating to unit 203.

Questions 43-50 were the applied knowledge questions covering a range of content from across all the units above. Candidates were required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding from a range of topics in an integrated approach when attempting these questions.

Candidates would benefit from regular revision sessions to allow them to pull together knowledge and understanding from across the assessed units prior to assessment. Centres should also utilise the support materials available in terms of sample and past papers to ensure candidates are familiar with the question types ahead of the examination.
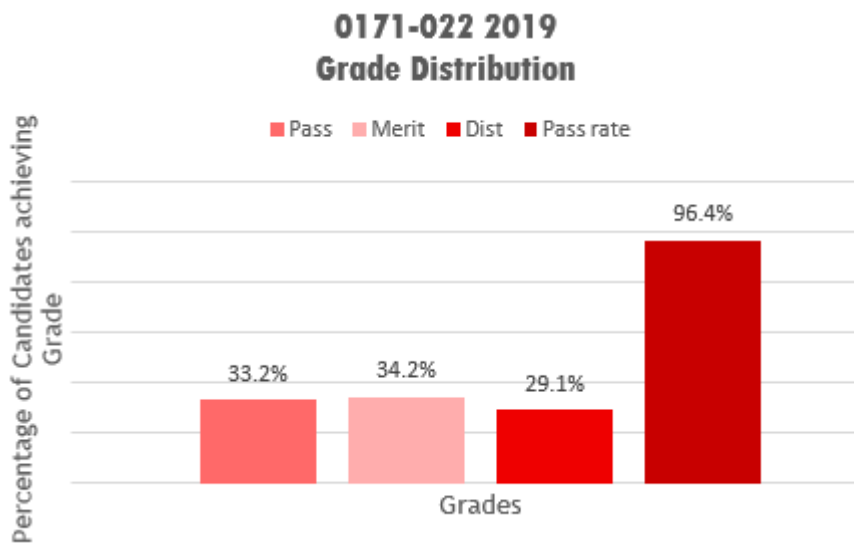
Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0171-022
Series: 2019

Total marks availible	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	43

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:

Principal Moderator Commentary

Overall, a good attempt was made on the written elements of the synoptic assignment with a wide range of quality within the work, as you would expect for Level 2 student. There was a good level of good and outstanding work. Group health checks were well written and detailed. Well-done Candidates and Centres.

The synoptic assignment contained a wide spread of practical tasks allowing centres to give candidates every opportunity to achieve to their full potential. Centres must be congratulated on allowing assessment to take place in real live situations i.e. Manure Spreading/Fencing etc. Very good examples were evidenced and observed with the livestock task where centres had been able to combine three separate livestock tasks into one assessment opportunity.

To assist in the moderation process, can markers of written material please show evidence of marking and insert comments on candidate scripts of strengths and weaknesses. This enables the moderator to see where marks have been allocated.

Task 1
The scope of this task was changed in the 2019 synoptic assignment to make use of a different range of equipment. This change appears to have been successful with centres allowing candidates to be assessed carrying out 'real jobs in real situations'.
There was a range of templates used for the Pre start checks, some were easier to complete than others.

Task 2a
A new task for 2019 bringing health checking into the real world, where a number of animals are checked at one time. This task was completed very well and is fit for purpose. Some excellent handwritten reports where produced containing a good range of detail.

Task 2b
The scope of this task was widened to allow for any species of animal and a wider range of tasks. This was well completed by all centres and allowed centres to combine various tasks in one assessment.
A number of centres must be congratulated on carrying this task out on a group of animals allowing candidates to display their true ability.
Again various check sheets where used.

Task 3
This task was completed very well and is fit for purpose.
Many centres must now be very stock proof.

Task 4
The majority of candidates completed this to a good standard. A number of candidates were let down by the quality and source of their research. In a number of cases there were limited information on the growing of the crop.