

0171-021/521 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture

March 2022

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 2022** examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment;
0171-021/521 Level 2 in Agriculture – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

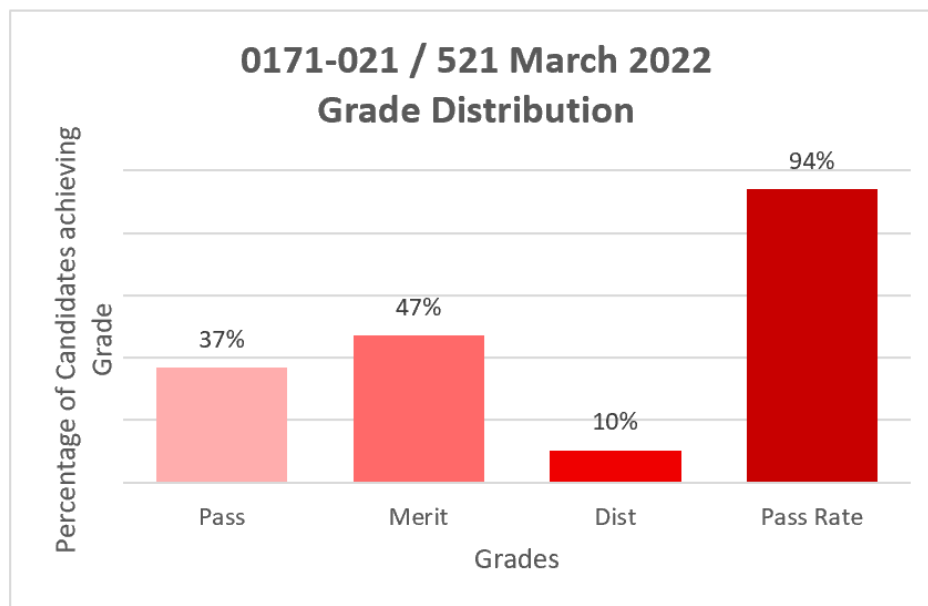
Assessment: **0171-021/521**

Series: **March 2022**

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

Total marks available	50
Pass mark	19
Merit mark	27
Distinction mark	36

The graph below shows the distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment;



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0171-021/521

Series 1 (March)

The paper overall is broadly similar in content and balance to previous papers. 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 terminology and technical content assessed in the question paper was to the correct level 2 standard. Overall, as might be expected, AO1 questions were effectively answered by most candidates, and AO2 questions proved more difficult. AO4 scenario-based questions were found to be most challenging.

The strongest performing units were:

- Crop husbandry (Unit 203)
- Topic of pesticides (Unit 203)

The units that were seen to be more difficult were:

- Farm animal production (Unit 204)
- Physiology of plants and animals (Unit 206)

There was a good balance of questions for each topic area with a range of difficulty allowing for differentiation in knowledge. Many of recall questions were answered correctly by all, however where further depth of knowledge and understanding were required the achievement dropped.

The AO4 scenario-based section of questions demonstrated a clear differentiation of performance between higher and lower achieving candidates and consideration could be given to ensuring that candidates are aware of the nature and methodology of this style of questioning. An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates.

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

[Technicals in Agriculture and Land-based Engineering qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications)