



0171-20 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture

2024

Qualification Report

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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.

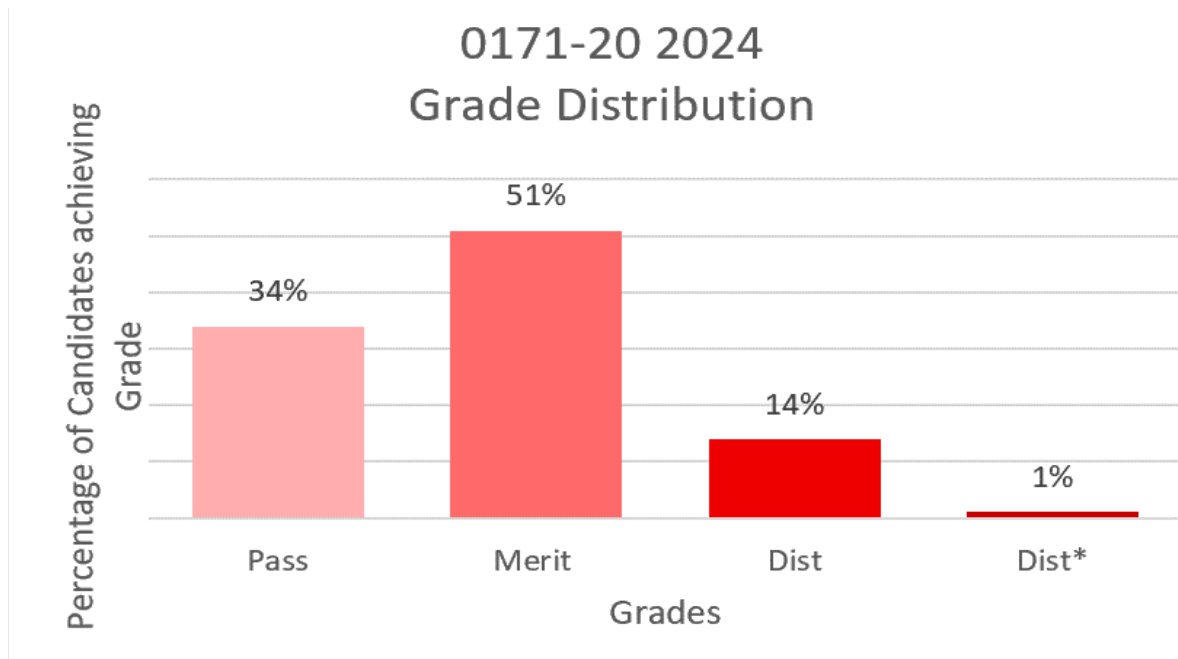
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2024 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 2024 (Spring)
 - June 2024 (Summer)
- 0171-022 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Agriculture – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



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

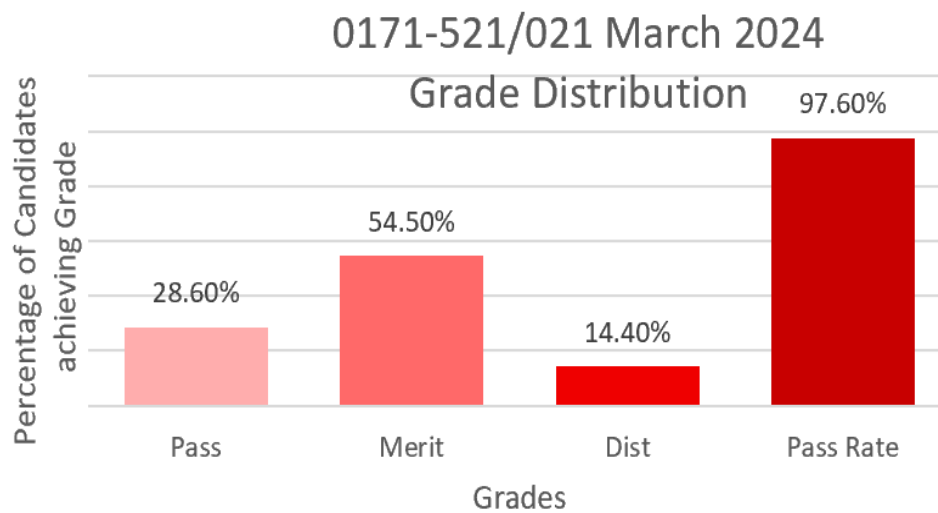
Assessment: 0171-521

Series: March 2024 (Spring)

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 approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:

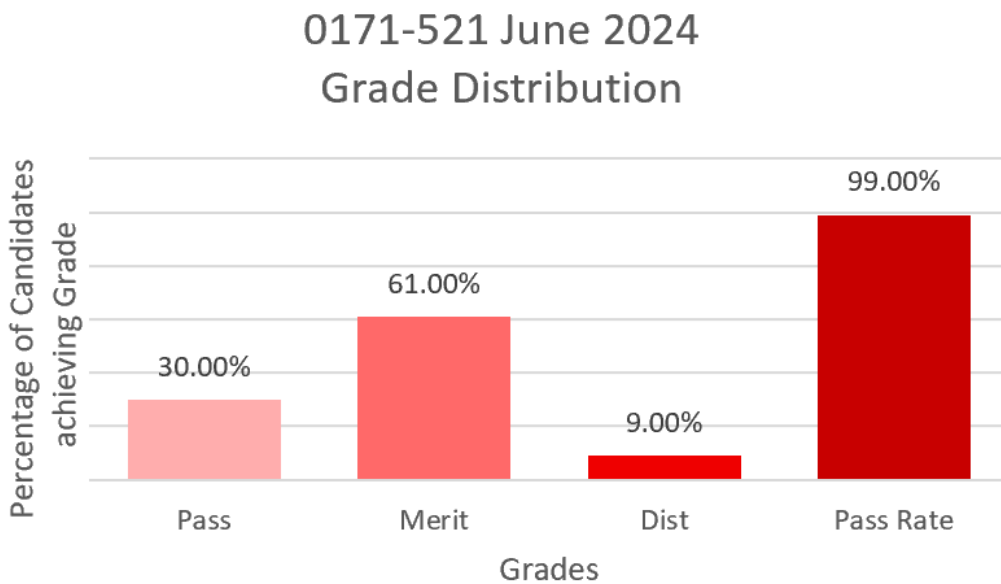


Assessment: 0171-521
Series: June 2024 (Summer)

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 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 2024

The paper was set at the appropriate level and was comparable to previous series in terms of level of demand and content coverage. Overall, achievement across the paper slightly improved this series. AO1 recall questions in general were well answered. Candidate responses to Unit 203 (crop husbandry) questions showed a degree of improvement though candidates continue to struggle on soil-based questions and more technical terms used to describe crops. There is still some misunderstanding of life cycles and plant processes (Unit 206 Physiology of plants and animals).

Farm animal production (Unit 204) was again answered well, including a poultry question. Working in the Agriculture Industry (Unit 207) received improved responses. Most candidates demonstrated knowledge about technology and understanding the roles of related organisations and job roles has shown a small degree of improvement. The AO4 questions received some good answers. Where candidates struggled with some of these questions, it is important that candidates fully read the scenario and take time to understand it.

In most cases science-based questions continue to be of a variable standard, especially by lower-scoring candidates. The picture-based questions received a mixed response.

The strongest performing unit was:

- Farm animal production (Unit 204)

The unit that was seen to be more difficult was:

- Physiology of plants and animals (Unit 206)

An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates. Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully.

Series 2 – June 2024

AO1 recall questions in general were well answered. Candidates' response to Unit 203 questions (Crop husbandry) has continued to show improvement but also there was some struggle to some extent with soil-based questions, nutrients uses and forms of supply. Machinery types and uses was well answered. There is still a lot of confusion regarding pesticide types. There continues to be misunderstanding of life cycles, plant processes and also plant types. However, a picture-based question on photosynthesis was well answered.

The livestock questions in this unit received some good responses. Unit 207 (Working in Agriculture industry) received fair responses. Most candidates demonstrated knowledge about technology and some understanding of the roles of related organisations. Job roles has shown a small degree of improvement. The picture-based questions received an improved response.

The AO4 questions received variable answers. Where candidates struggled with some of these questions, it is important that candidates fully read the scenario and take time to understand it. These questions are all about putting knowledge into a practical situation.

Science-based questions continue to be of a variable standard, especially by lower-scoring candidates.

The strongest performing unit was:

- Farm animal production (Unit 204)

The unit that was seen to be more difficult was:

- Crop husbandry (Unit 203)
- Physiology of plants and animals (Unit 206)

An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates. Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully.

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)

Synoptic Assignment

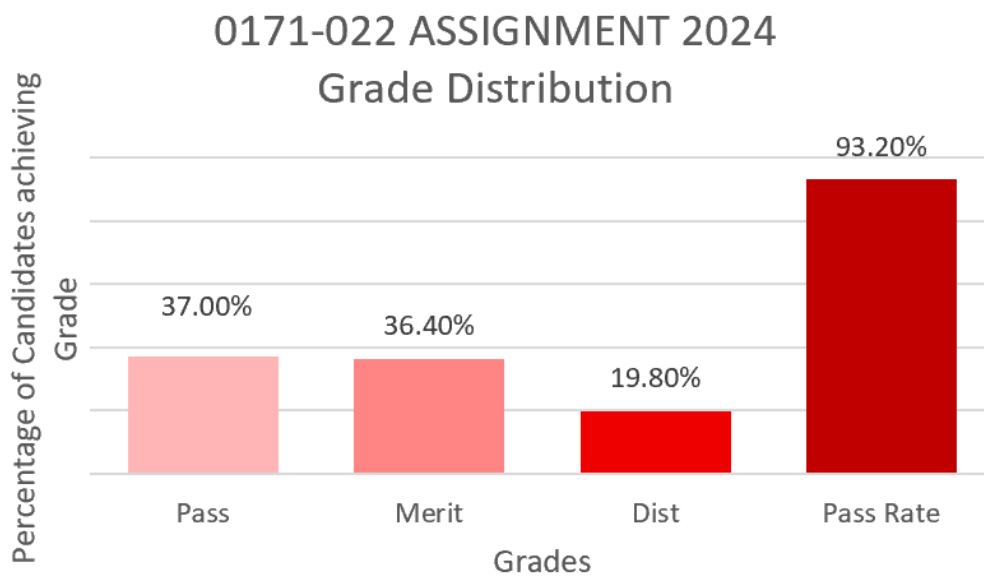
Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0171-022
Series: 2024

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

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



Principal Moderator Commentary

Candidates and centres are to be commended on the candidates' performance on the whole the standard of feedback from centres is improving. Candidate performance covered the full range of abilities both practical and written. Evidence for all AOs can be easily gathered from all tasks and must be credited.

The main change this year was that Task 2 which has been animal health checks was changed to a soil health check. The majority of candidates performed well with this task following the procedures taught. A number lacked precision and care when carrying this out. Soil health is becoming an ever more important issue within the industry and must be taken seriously.

As expected, practical activities were completed to a good level of achievement. In some cases, some centres could have made more use of these activities to gather evidence for other AOs. Risk assessments and other reports were completed with a very wide range of detail.

In Task 4, many candidates gave a good report on the production of young animals. A number did not cover the whole cycle as required.

Overall, the candidate performance levels were comparable with previous years.

Centres are asked:

- to include areas for improvement on the Candidate Record Form (CRF) unless the mark awarded is in the excellent band
- to carefully check the addition of the total marks on the CRF
- to ensure the CRF marks match the marks entered on the Moderation Portal
- to ensure handwriting is legible on forms
- to annotate on candidate's work, incorrect statements and the quality of the work, e.g. areas which are good or lacking detail
- when using dictation software to carefully check what has been typed
- to upload all the forms and evidence as one document
- to include more detail of the tasks being carried out onto the PO form.