

0171-006/506 – Level 3 in Agriculture (Mixed farming) – 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;
0171-006/506 – Level 3 in Agriculture (Mixed farming) – Theory Exam

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

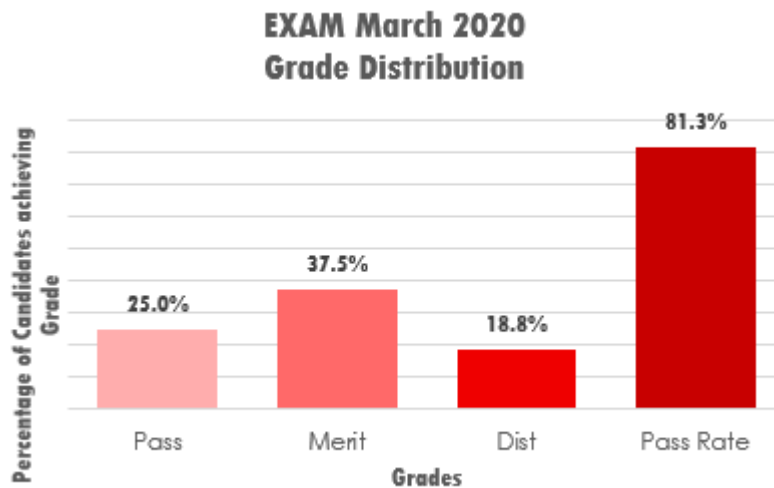
Assessment: **0171-006/506**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
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: 0171-006/506

Series 1 (March)

The question paper had an appropriate balance of questions with varied levels of demand. It accurately sampled the knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Most candidates were able to give good, concise and accurate responses to the majority of questions with most candidates attempting all questions. Some of the one mark questions on the recall of knowledge were less well answered.

Overall, candidates' performance was weak in the extended recall questions with a general trend of inaccuracy when using technical terms and a weakness in discussing the two scenarios.

Most candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as grassland and RTFLs.

Candidates need to focus on reading questions as responses in some areas did not relate to what was being asked.

In the extended response question, candidates were asked to discuss the methods of making good quality silage and how an RTFL could assist.

In the main, this question was answered quite poorly with the majority of candidates only accessing the marks in Band 1 or lower Band 2. Candidates tended to write quite a lot of information that did not answer the question. There were limited examples given that discussed the use of the RTFL to assist with silage making. There was evidence of lack of planning which resulted in poor presentation.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates also need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper and need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.