

0171-008/508 – Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (Farm mechanisation)

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;

0171-008/508 – Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (Farm mechanisation)

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

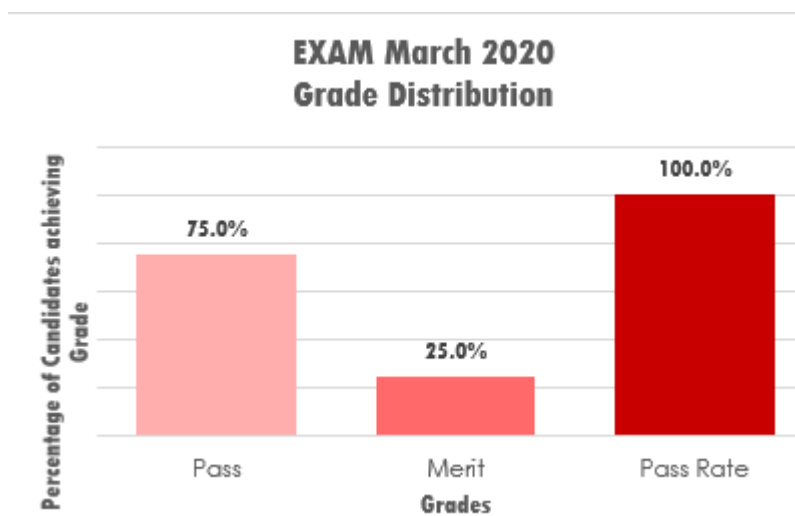
Assessment: **0171-008/508**

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: 0171-008/508

Series 1 (March)

Most candidates gave good and relevant responses, allowing many to gain high marks. It was also significant that most candidates had planned their ERQ which resulted in more structured responses. Overall, candidates' performance was stronger in the recall questions with good use of technical terms.

Most candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as machinery construction and operation, safe pesticide use and RTFL operation. Higher scoring candidates demonstrated the ability to recall knowledge across all of the mandatory units and evidence their understanding, through accurately targeted justification and reasoning. The combination of these skills, supported by the accurate use of industry specific terminology, enabled them to gain high marks in the ERQ.

In terms of areas that were not so well answered, there was a mixed response to questions on closed centre hydraulics, oscillating spout fertiliser spinners and ATV's. There was a total of 14 marks available from these questions so candidates need to ensure that they have studied the entire syllabus.

Candidates need to focus on reading questions as responses in some areas did not relate to what was being asked. Some answers indicated that candidates had not read and understood the focus of some questions fully, whilst other responses lacked justification and/or reason, meaning they were unable to gain full marks.

Candidates were asked to justify the purchase of an ATV in the extended response question. Generally candidates showed good knowledge and discussion of the pros and cons of ATV's. Most answers were well structured with accurate and consistent use of technical terms. Candidates in the upper band produced coherent and well-structured answers with excellent knowledge and discussion of the advantages and disadvantages with relevant and current technical language.

Candidates will benefit from reading and fully understanding what the question is asking for before attempting to answer. 'Describe' type questions require a response detailing what something is like, whereas 'explain' type questions require candidates to demonstrate reasoning by providing further justification to the points made within their responses. 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.

Tutors are advised to revisit current handbooks, test specifications and previous papers to fine-tune the delivery of their programmes. Getting candidates to embrace learning opportunities in farm mechanisation through site visits, videos, reading and debating will benefit them in future examination series'.

Tutors are reminded that City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' are available.