

0171-012/512 – Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (Arable)

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;
0171-012/512 – Exam Title – Theory Exam (Arable).

Theory Exam – March 2020

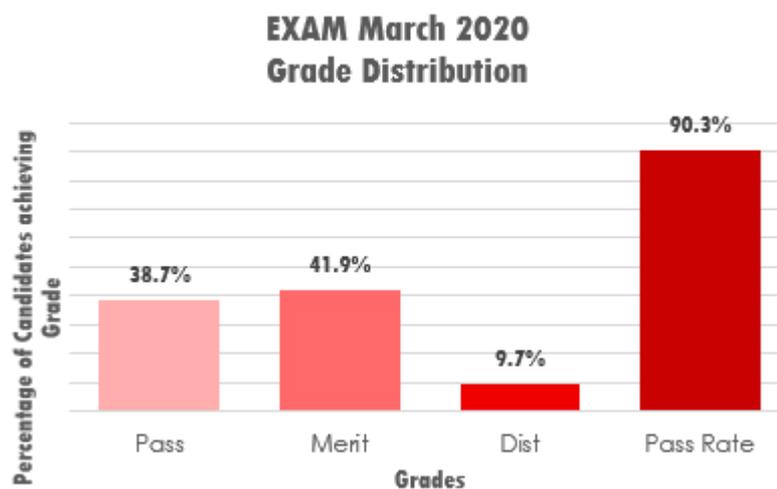
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: 0171-012/512

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: 0171-012/512

Series 1 (March)

Overall the candidate's performance was similar to last year 2019 but there were fewer high achievers in the Extended Response Question.

Higher achieving candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the questions, but one question in particular was very badly answered. This was where candidates were asked to describe four working principles of the weed wiper. A small number of candidates could describe four working principles. Many were unable to identify what a weed wiper was and many more left the answer blank.

In this paper, the machinery type questions on Rough Terrain Forklifts and All-Terrain Vehicles on pesticides application and the fertiliser spreaders were well understood and some comprehensive well thought out answers were presented.

There were less well answered were questions on Unit 317 Farm Habitat Management. Some candidates chose to miss out these questions. Those that did attempt in the main were lacking in detail.

For the Extended Response Question candidates were asked to discuss the efficient and effective application of organic fertilisers to farm land and the methods of minimising the environmental impact. There were a wide range of responses with several candidates at the top of Band 2 but the majority were around top of Band 1.

Candidates tended to give limited information which did not answer the question and in many there was a lack of technical language and answers disorganised and ambiguous.

The candidates who did do well tended to demonstrate a good understanding of the key topics and the interrelationships between the factors with some use of specialist terms and relevant examples. Answers were presented in a fairly structured format.

Overall the marks for the ERQ were lower than in 2019 where several candidate achieve marks towards the top of Band 3.