0171-010/510 – Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (Livestock)

March 2022

Chief 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, incorrect examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment;
0171-010/510 – Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory exam (Livestock).

Theory Exam – March 2022
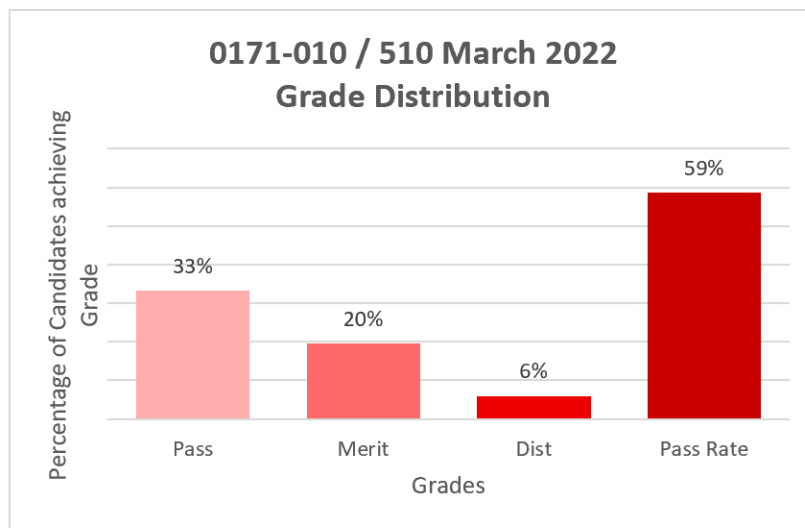
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0171-010/510**
Series: **March 2022**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	44

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: 0171-010/510

Series 1 (March)

Most candidates performed well on recall questions on practical based questions and waste legislation. However, questions on reproductive systems and the operation and application of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Rough Terrain Telescopic Forklifts (RTFL) were poorly answered.

There was a wide range of accuracy and depth within questions requiring understanding and application of knowledge. The candidates who achieved higher marks were able to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, backed up by relevant examples and including explanation and justification where needed. Lower achieving candidates tended to give brief and listed answers in most of their questions. There was evidence of candidates not fully reading questions, which meant they missed out on marks by not responding in the way needed or providing the level of detail needed to access the full range of marks available. Candidates also did not always engage with the command verbs, for example simply stating rather than explaining. This meant they did not always provide enough detail when asked for explanations or discussions.

Overall, candidates showed **strength** in:
- Farm animal science (Unit 334)
- Farm animal health and nutrition (Unit 313)
- Pollution and waste control management (Unit 316)

Candidates appear to require further **support** in:
- All-Terrain vehicles and rough terrain telescopic forklifts (Unit 335)
- Anatomical systems of livestock (Unit 334)

Extended Response Question (ERQ)
For the extended response question, candidates were asked to discuss digestive processes and dietary requirements for both cattle and pigs. There were a wide range of responses with several candidates at the lower end of Band 3 but the majority were around the top of Band 2 and Band 1. Candidates in the higher band demonstrated confident knowledge of the ruminant digestion, as well as the theory and practices of ruminant nutrition.

There was a significant improvement in candidates' exam technique in responding to the ERQ compared to March 2020, which was illustrated by candidates offering more relevant responses, allowing many to access higher marks. It was also significant that most candidates had planned their ERQ which resulted in more structured, considered responses.

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 but higher marks were achievable if there was the support of clear links to the topic.

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)](http://cityandguilds.com)

Candidates are strongly advised to be familiar with the command verbs they may encounter during examinations and to be prepared for the different types of structures of questions, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.