

0171-012/512– Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2)

March 2023

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 2023** 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 Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2023

Grade Boundaries and distribution

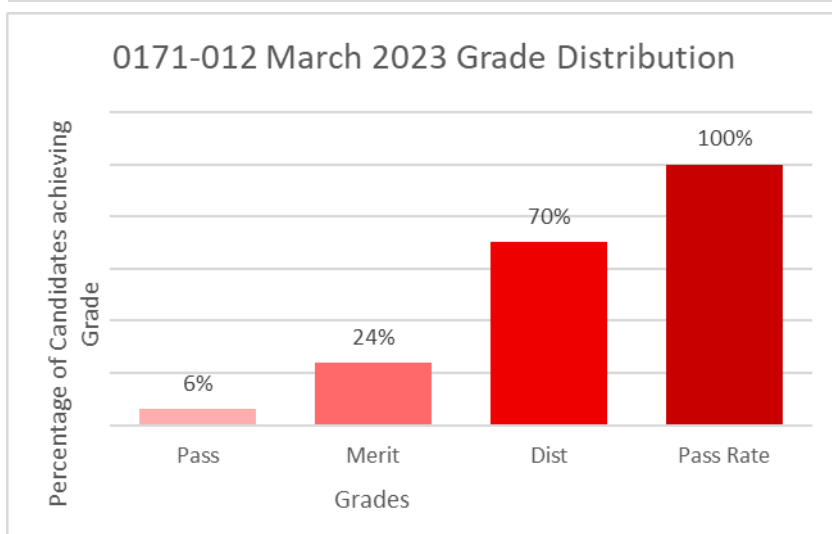
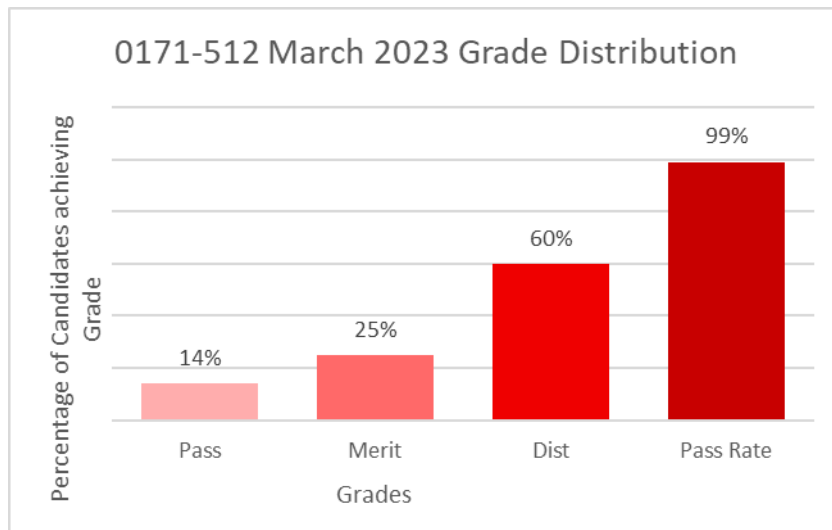
Assessment: **0171-012/512**

Series: **March 2023**

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)

The question paper was generally balanced and covered a good level of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth, and overall candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year.

Candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as hazardous waste and safely operating a RTFL. There was some weakness in the recall question relating to hedge maintenance.

AO2 questions responses were well answered across the cohort. Many candidates demonstrated weakness in understanding the question that related to hydrostatic transmission. The candidates who achieved higher marks were able to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, backed up by relevant examples and included explanation and justification where needed. Lower achieving candidates tended to give brief and listed answers. 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 required to access the full range of marks available at AO2. Candidates did not always engage with the command verbs, for example simply stating rather than explaining, this meant that candidates did not always provide enough detail when asked for explanations or descriptions.

Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully, particularly the command words where a named example or a specific number of points may need to be covered.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- Hazardous waste/waste management (Unit 316)
- Fertiliser spreaders (Unit 326)
- Pesticide application (Unit 326)
- Operating a RTFL (Unit 335)

Candidates require further support in:

- Hedge maintenance (Unit 317)
- Hydrostatic transmission (Unit 335)

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended answer question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of agriculture and arable farming in general. Candidates were asked to discuss the methods of minimising the environmental impact when loading and spreading the fertiliser. Generally, candidates showed good knowledge and discussion of the topic. Most answers were well structured with accurate and consistent use of technical terms. Higher-level candidates produced coherent and well-structured answers with excellent knowledge and discussion of health and profitability with relevant and current technical language.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' which can be accessed here:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/agriculture/0171-technicals-in-agriculture-and-landbased-engineering#tab=information>

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.