

# **0171-31/33– Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture**

**2024**

**Qualification Report**

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# Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It 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 assessments in the 2024 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

## Year 1

- Pathway 1
  - 0171-002/502 Level 3 in Agriculture – Theory exam
    - March 2024 (Spring)
    - June 2024 (Summer)
  - 0171-001 Level 3 in Agriculture – Synoptic Assignment

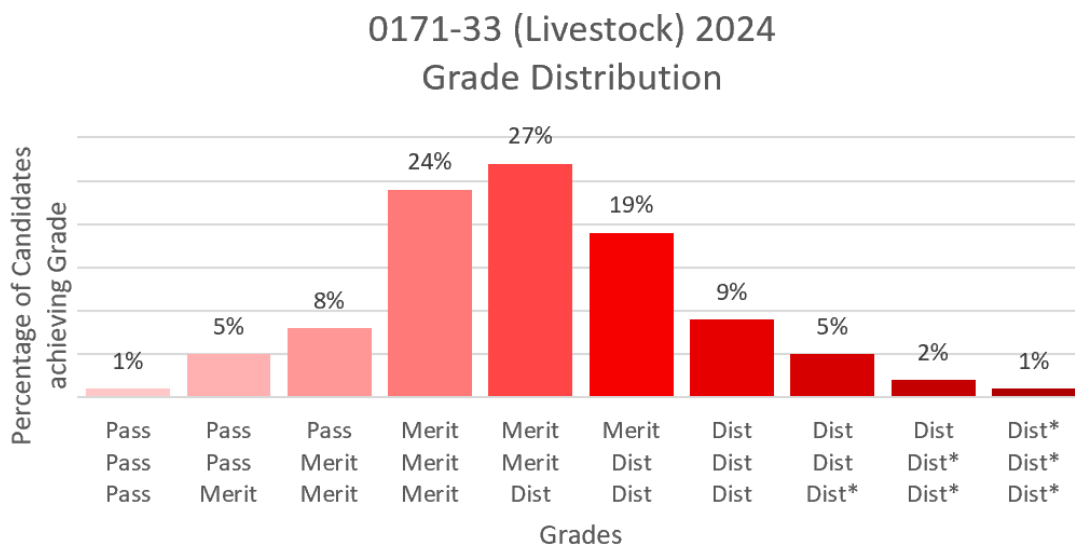
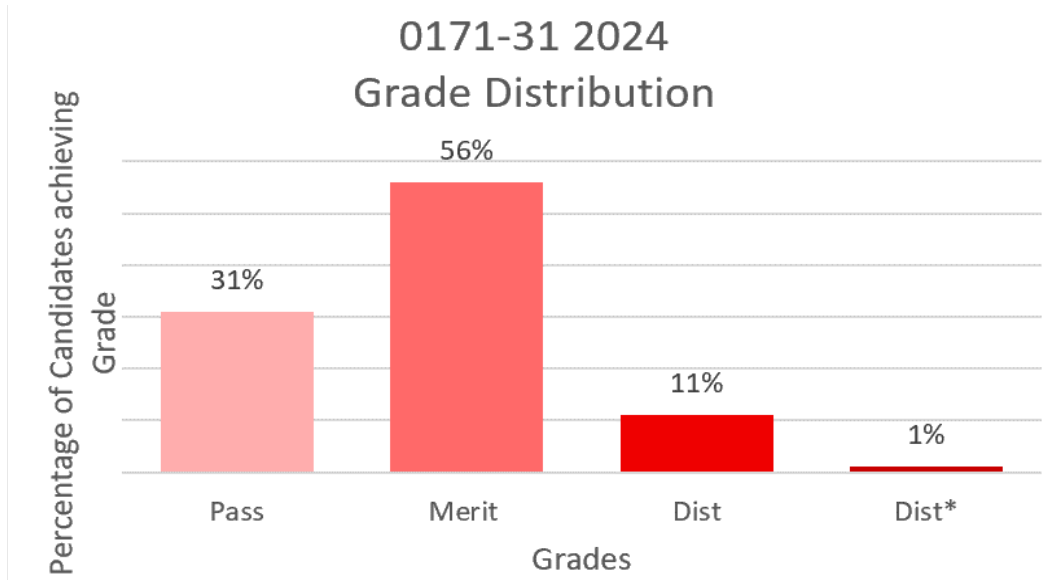
## Year 2

- Pathway 1
  - 0171-010/510 Level 3 in Agriculture (Livestock) – Theory exam
    - March 2024 (Spring)
    - June 2024 (Summer)
  - 0171-009 Level 3 in Agriculture (Livestock) – Synoptic Assignment
- Pathway 2
  - 0171-012/512 Level 3 in Agriculture (Arable) – Theory exam
    - March 2024 (Spring)
    - June 2024 (Summer)
  - 0171-011 Level 3 in Agriculture (Arable) - Synoptic Assignment
- Pathway 3
  - 0171-014/514 Level 3 in Agriculture (Farm Mechanisation) – Theory exam
    - March 2024 (Spring)
    - June 2024 (Summer)
  - 0171-013 Level 3 in Agriculture (Farm Mechanisation) - Synoptic Assignment

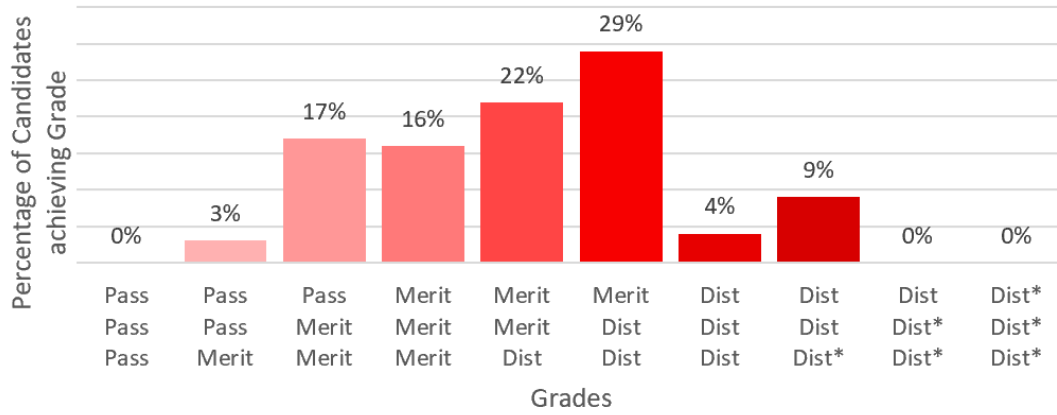
# Qualification Grade Distribution

0171-31/33

The grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



## 0171-33 (Arable) 2024 Grade Distribution



Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.

# Theory Exams – Year 1

## 0171-31/33- Level 3 Technicals in Agriculture

### Grade Boundaries

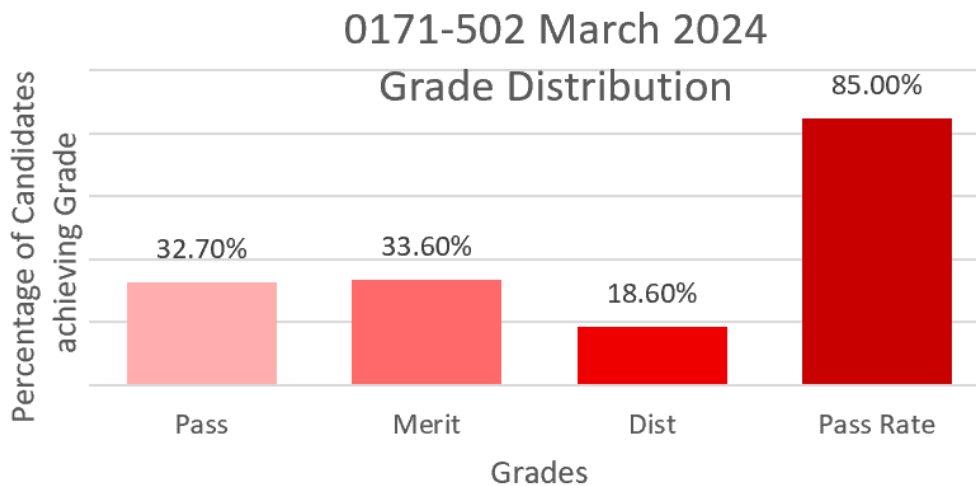
Assessment: 0171-502

Series: March 2024 (Spring)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:

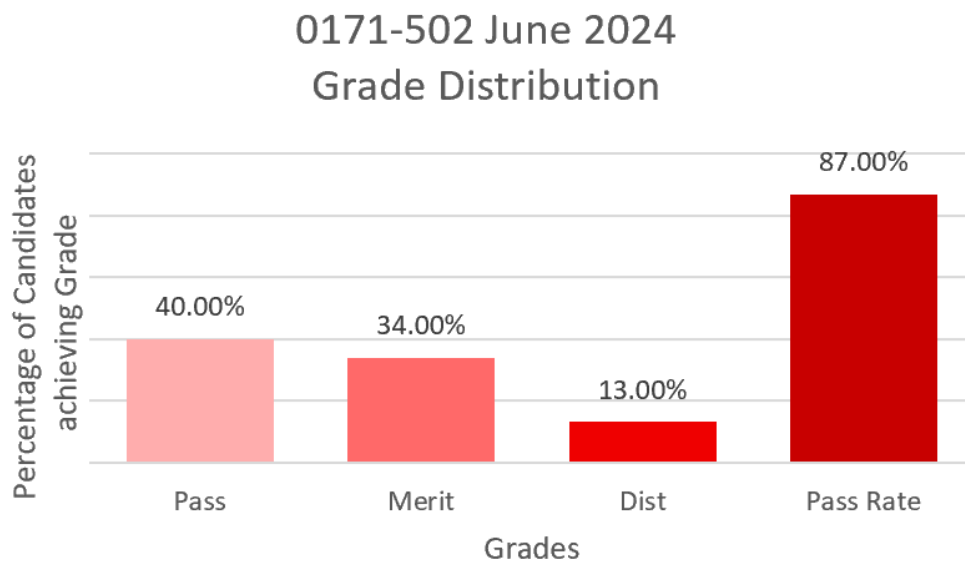


Assessment: 0171-502  
Series: June 2024 (Summer)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 0171-502 Level 3 in Agriculture - Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2024

Overall, a well answered paper with a wide range of marks. There was a range of question types at the correct level for the candidates. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth, and overall candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year. Performance across plant and soil science was better than seen across previous series', in areas such as transpiration and field drainage.

The AO2 questions identified the more able candidates. Those who did not fully answer the question lost marks. 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.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- Breeds (Unit 307)
- Field drainage (Unit 305)

Candidates require further support in:

- Minor nutrients (Unit 304)
- Crop production/dicots (Unit 304)
- Machinery operation (Unit 303)

In the Extended Response Question, candidates were asked to discuss why soil compaction causes reduction in crop yields on a mixed farm and methods to reduce compaction. There was a variable level of performance with many giving some good detail on soil compaction but gave less detail on how to reduce compaction. If candidates plan how they are to answer the question this will help them to use their time more effectively and ensure all parts of the question are covered. It will also help them to answer the question in a logical format.

In general, candidates need to read the questions to ensure they understand what is required to fully answer the question. Candidates should also check over their scripts before handing them in. 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.



## Series 2 – June 2024

This series, on many questions the candidates did not fully read/respond to the question which limited their ability to achieve a higher mark. The AO2 questions identified the more able candidates. The candidates who achieved higher marks were able to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, backed up by relevant examples and including explanations and justifications where needed.

Overall candidates showed strength in:

- Prestart checks (Unit 303)
- Plant root systems (Unit 305)
- Signs of poor drainage (Unit 305)

Candidates require further support:

- Marketing of livestock (Unit 307)
- Processes of plant physiology (Unit 305)
- Crops and their lifecycles (Unit 304)

The Extended Response Question required candidates to discuss soil structure. There was a wide range of answers with several candidate towards the top of band 2. For those in band 1 the majority lacked detail and structure with limited use of technical language. A lack of planning resulted in responses failing to fully answer the question. There was some limited understanding of the key topics with mainly descriptive comments. The band 2 achievers demonstrated a good understanding with evidence presented in a more logical structured format.

Candidates would benefit from practicing answering the AO4 type question to ensure accurate planning and sufficient detail is demonstrated in their answer. 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.

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 \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications)

# Theory Exams – Year 2

## 0171-33 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) (Livestock)

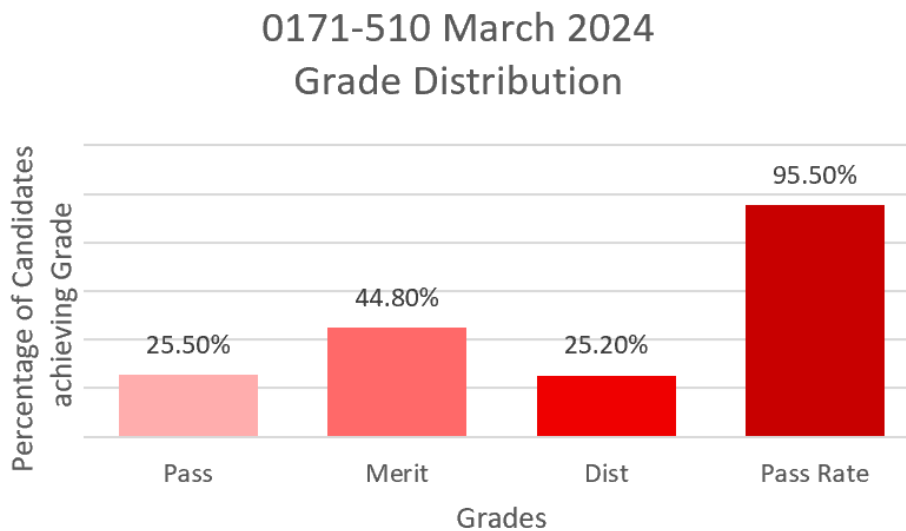
### Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0171-510  
Series: March 2024 (Spring)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	44

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:

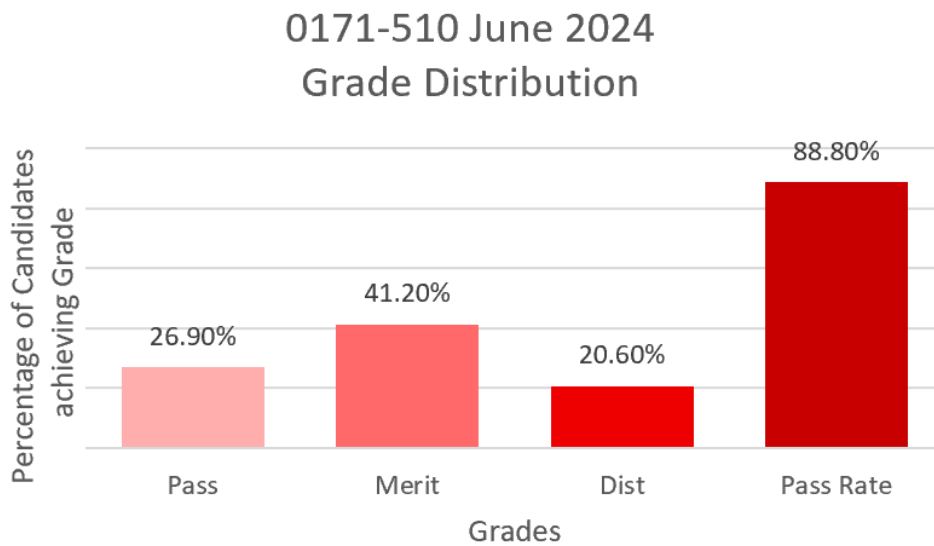


Assessment: 0171-510  
Series: June 2024 (Summer)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	44

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 0171-510/010 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) (Livestock) - Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2024

Overall, a well answered paper, with a wide spread of marks. There was a range of question types at the correct level for the candidates and the paper was comparable to previous series'. As seen last year, science and animal health questions presented more of a challenge to candidates. Questions related to machinery were answered better than the previous year.

The AO2 questions identified the more able and those who did not fully answer the question lost marks. 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.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- RFTL/ATVs (Unit 335)
- Organic waste (Unit 316)
- Lambing (Unit 334)
- Reproductive systems (Unit 334)

Candidates require further support in:

- Administering medication (Unit 313)
- NVZ legislation (Unit 316)
- Central nervous system (Unit 313)

The Extended Response Question gave candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of agriculture and livestock in general. Candidates were asked to discuss ways to improve the performance of the livestock enterprises on the farm through advanced health and breeding technologies. Some very good and extensive answers were provided, however, many gave detailed information on breeding technologies but then did not include any information on advanced health technology, or vice versa. Candidates in the upper bands produced coherent and well-structured answers with excellent knowledge and discussion of the challenges and solutions with relevant technical language.

## Series 2 – June 2024

Overall, a balanced paper with a range of question types at the correct level. Candidates showed some improvement in farm animal science areas when compared to last Summer. Marks continue to be picked up well across the spread of the paper in AO1 areas, as seen throughout previous series'. Marks tended to be lost where questions were only partially answered, which could indicate that candidates are not fully reading the questions.

The AO2 questions identified the more able candidates. Those 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. An improvement on depth could be seen when compared to Summer 2023.

Overall candidates showed strength in:

- Reproductive systems (Unit 334)
- Oestrus (Unit 334)
- Blood vessels (Unit 334)
- Disposal of fallen stock (Unit 316)

Candidates require further support:

- Zoonotic diseases (Unit 313)

The Extended Response Question required candidates to discuss ways to reduce the risk of diseases getting on the farm and spreading through the livestock. For those in band 1 the majority lacked detail and structure with limited use of technical language. A lack of planning resulted in the responses failing to fully answer the question. There was, in many cases, a limited understanding of the key topics with mainly descriptive comments. For the band 2 achievers, they demonstrated a good understanding with evidence presented in a more logical structured format.

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. Candidates would benefit from practicing answering the AO4 type questions to ensure accurate planning and sufficient detail is demonstrated in their answer.

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 \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications)

# 0171-33 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) (Arable)

## Grade Boundaries

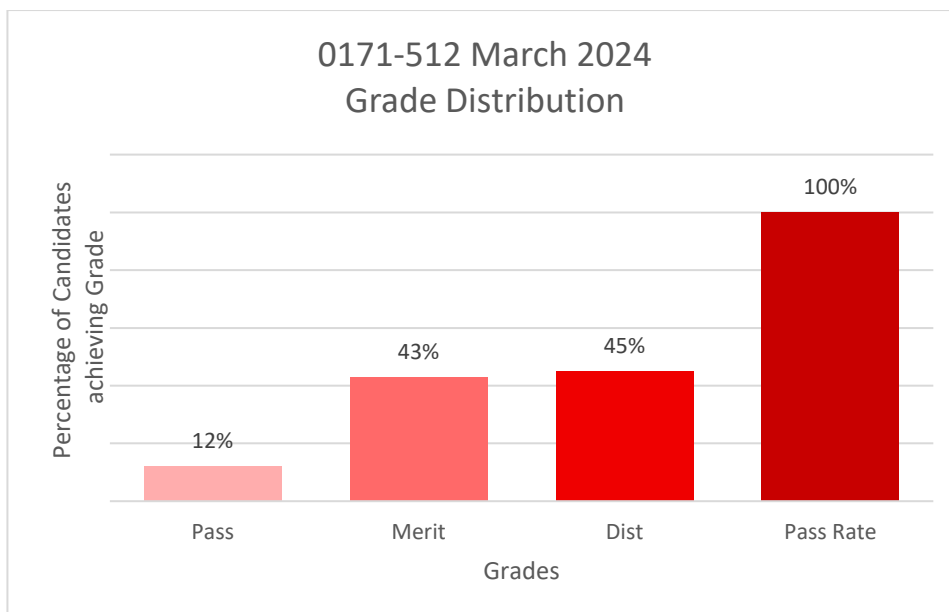
Assessment: 0171-512

Series: March 2024

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



Assessment: 0171-512  
Series: June 2024 (Summer)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

Data and commentary for this assessment have been omitted by City & Guilds due to a very low number of candidate submissions.

# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 0171-512/012 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) (Arable)

### Series 1 – March 2024

The question paper was balanced and covered a good level of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. This series was comparable to past papers. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth. There was a strong performance by candidates this series, with many achieving high marks, especially in AO1 questions.

Candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as pollution and waste control management and ATVs and RTFLs.

The AO2 questions were less well-answered as many candidates only partially answered the questions, therefore were unable to gain full marks. 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:

- Farm habitat management (Unit 316)
- Inorganic waste (Unit 316)
- PPE (Unit 335)
- ATV/RTFL (Unit 335)

Candidates require further support in:

- Beetle banks (Unit 317)
- Hedgerows (Unit 317)
- Oil and filter change (335)

Within the Extended Response Question, candidates were asked to discuss the advantages of switching to liquid fertiliser and how the impact on the environment can be minimised. This question demonstrates the most discrimination. Many candidates failed to include environmental impact in their discussions and lacked structure in their answers. This identified candidates which had a clear understanding of the key factors with good use of technical language.

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.



# 0171-33 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (1080) (Farm Mechanisation)

## Grade Boundaries

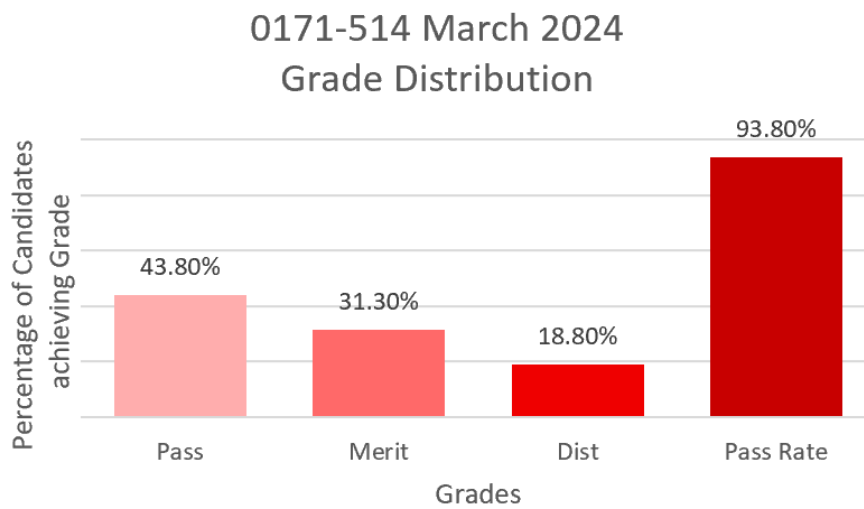
Assessment: 0171-514

Series: March 2024

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	43

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



# 0171-33 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (1080) (Farm Mechanisation)

## Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0171-514

Series: June 2024

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	43

Data and commentary for this assessment have been omitted by City & Guilds due to a very low number of candidate submissions.

# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 0171-514/014 Level 3 in Agriculture –Theory exam (Farm Mechanisation)

### Series 1 – March 2024

This was a fair paper testing the candidate's knowledge and understanding across relevant units within the qualification. There were plenty of opportunities for a prepared candidate to pick up the necessary marks. Candidates had generally prepared well for the exam.

Candidates performed well on AO1 questions, and particularly those that related to a practical area that the candidates were familiar with. Candidates struggled on the AO2 questions where too often, they failed to follow up a statement with a description or explanation. They could relate to the demands of COSHH regulations, but not with full breadth and depth, which limited marks achieved.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- Shear bolt breakage (Unit 310)
- Components of a liquid cooling system (Unit 310)
- Differentials (Unit 310)
- Precautions when using an angle grinder (Unit 318)

Candidates require further support in:

- Use of a chain to transmit power (Unit 310)
- Draft and position control (Unit 310)
- Job card details (Unit 310)
- COSHH (Unit 310)

Within the Extended Response Question, candidates were asked to discuss procedures to carry out an inspection in the workshop when a part is repeatedly breaking on a land-based machine, and how to reduce repeated breakages.

The land-based machine was left for the candidate to choose, and this encouraged a wide range of responses, allowing candidates a certain freedom of choice. Most candidates did well on the practical repair of the part and how to stop it recurring. Although there was some reference to PPE, the safety aspect was poorly answered. Safety is important in farm mechanisation and is referenced within the ERQ most years. Centres are encouraged to focus more on this aspect to support their candidates in exams.

# Synoptic Assignments – Year 1

## 0171-31/33 –Level 3 Technicals in Agriculture

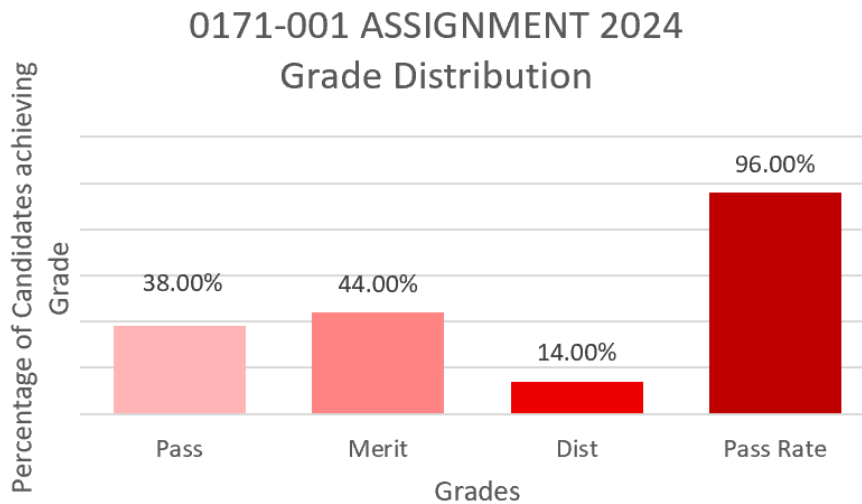
### Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0171-001  
Series: 2024

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	43

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



## Principal Moderator Commentary

The standard of candidates' work this year is on a par with previous years. There was little change to this year's assignment, with the type of livestock in Task 5 being the main difference. The synoptic assignment contained a good spread of practical tasks and background knowledge, at the appropriate level.

Overall, the synoptic assignments were well written by the candidates with a range in quality of work as you would expect for Level 3 students. Candidates performed well on the livestock, machinery and estate maintenance practical tasks. There were no widespread areas that candidates found difficult, this reflects the good preparation by centres, for the assignments.

Centres are asked:

- to include areas for improvement on the Candidate Record Form (CRF), unless the mark awarded is in the excellent band
- to carefully check the addition of the total marks on the CRF
- to ensure the CRF marks match the marks entered on the Moderation Portal.
- to annotate incorrect statements and the quality of the work on candidates' work, e.g. areas which are good or lacking detail.
- to carefully check what has been typed when using dictation software
- to upload all the forms and evidence as one document where possible.

# Synoptic Assignments – Year 2

## 0171-33 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) (Livestock)

### Grade Boundaries

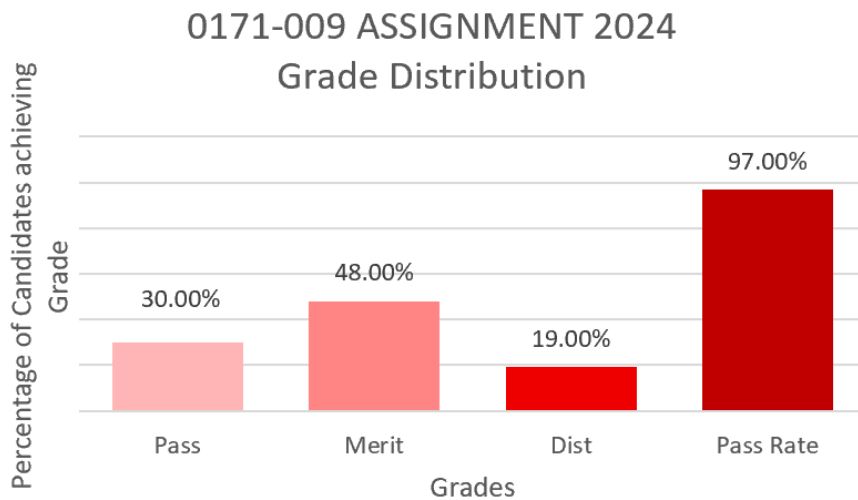
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel:

Assessment: 0171-009

Series: 2024

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	44

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



## Principal Moderator Commentary

In the synoptic the standards of candidate work have been on a par with previous years. The synoptic assignment contained a good spread of practical tasks and background knowledge, at the appropriate level.

Overall, the synoptic assignments were well written by the candidates with a range in quality of work as you would expect for Level 3 students. Candidates performed well on the practical aspects in Tasks 3 & 4. There was a mixed response to the pig element in Task 1, with some candidates handling this well and others requiring more experience. Some candidates also found the financial tasks more challenging (cash flow).

Centres are asked:

- to include areas for improvement on the Candidate Record Form (CRF), unless the mark awarded is in the excellent band
- to carefully check the addition of the total marks on the CRF
- to ensure the CRF marks match the marks entered on the Moderation Portal.
- to annotate incorrect statements and the quality of the work on candidates' work, e.g. areas which are good or lacking detail.
- to carefully check what has been typed when using dictation software
- to upload all the forms and evidence as one document where possible.

# 0171-33 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) (Arable)

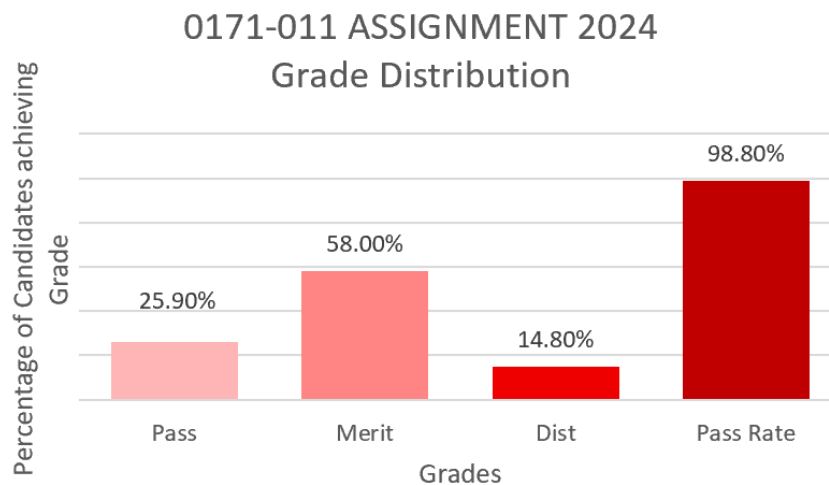
## Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0171-011  
Series: 2024

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	44

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:





## Principal Moderator Commentary

In the synoptic the standards of candidate work have been on a par with previous years. The synoptic assignment contained a good spread of practical tasks and background knowledge, at the appropriate level.

Overall, the synoptic assignments were well written by the candidates with a range in quality of work as you would expect for Level 3 students. Candidates performed well on the practical tasks which included workshop inspections, machinery set up and ATVs. Some candidates were challenged by the financial aspect of Task 4.

Centres are asked:

- to include areas for improvement on the Candidate Record Form (CRF), unless the mark awarded is in the excellent band
- to carefully check the addition of the total marks on the CRF
- to ensure the CRF marks match the marks entered on the Moderation Portal.
- to annotate incorrect statements and the quality of the work on candidates' work, e.g. areas which are good or lacking detail.
- to carefully check what has been typed when using dictation software
- to upload all the forms and evidence as one document where possible.

# 0171-33 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) (Farm mechanisation)

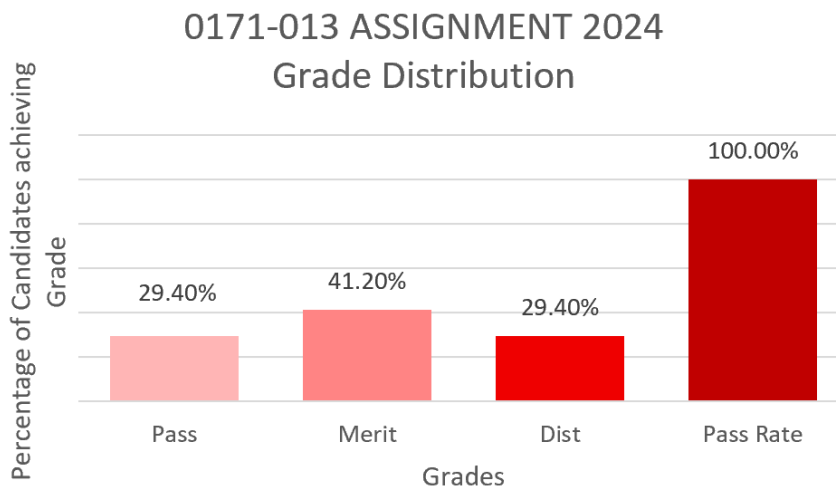
## Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 0171-013  
Series: 2024

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	43

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



## Principal Moderator Commentary

In the synoptic the standards of candidate work have been on a par with previous years. The synoptic assignment contained a good spread of practical tasks and background knowledge, at the appropriate level.

Overall, the practical tasks were of a good standard (Tasks 1 & 4), as would be expected from candidates undertaking this qualification. Candidates were mostly challenged by the report on costings in Task 4 and written work on the excavator bucket in Task 2.

Centres are asked:

- to include areas for improvement on the Candidate Record Form (CRF), unless the mark awarded is in the excellent band
- to carefully check the addition of the total marks on the CRF
- to ensure the CRF marks match the marks entered on the Moderation Portal.
- to annotate incorrect statements and the quality of the work on candidates' work, e.g. areas which are good or lacking detail.
- to carefully check what has been typed when using dictation software
- to upload all the forms and evidence as one document where possible.