0172-524 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Animal Care

March 2020

Examiner Report

Contents

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;
0172-524 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Animal Care - Theory exam

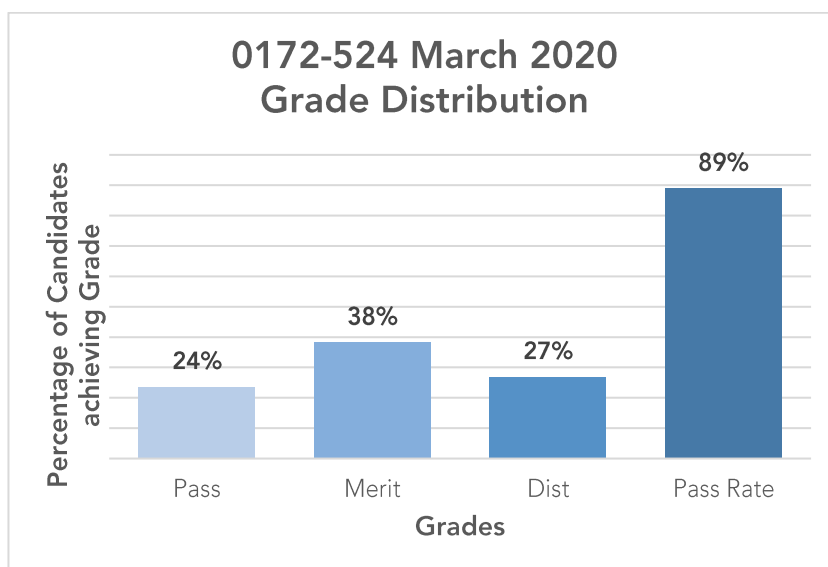# Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0172-524**
Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	37

The graph below shows the approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:

0172-524 March 2020 Grade Distribution

Grade	Percentage of Candidates achieving Grade
Pass	24%
Merit	38%
Dist	27%
Pass Rate	89%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0172-524

Series 1 (March)

Overall, candidates have performed well on this assessment demonstrating good recall across most of the subject areas. The paper was comparable to previous series in relation to range, suitability and level with a balance of questions testing depth and breadth across the tested topics. This has allowed all candidates to demonstrate both knowledge and understanding whilst still providing higher performing candidates with an opportunity to show greater depth and breadth across the qualification. The format and style of questions requiring candidates to apply their knowledge and understanding to practice was more versatile this year but maintained a strong focus on the need for candidates to refer to the scenario prior to answering the questions.

In this paper, questions relating to animal welfare legislation and the five needs was answered well demonstrating that candidates' knowledge of legislation remains strong. Candidates also responded well to feeding and accommodation questions with higher performing candidates able to show knowledge and understanding of specific nutrient groups and consequences of feeding specified diets. Most candidates were able to identify suitable substrates and their properties demonstrating breadth and depth when applied to a given situation. The majority of candidates were able to identify suitable handling and restraint for specific species and suitable methods of restraint for given scenarios.

Particular areas of weakness included animal health where candidates were confused when asked what pathogen caused a named disease or care of an animal when diagnosed with a specific disease. Many candidates were unable to correctly identify a suitable item to use on a hoof abscess and did not appear familiar with the full range of first aid equipment.

As noted in previous exam series, candidates continue to show weakness in work experience and business-related questions where they struggled to identify rights and responsibilities of the employee and business structures. Lower performing candidates were unable to identify roles of professional bodies or how they were regulated. Many candidates continue to struggle with industry associations and events.

A more varied performance was evident on behaviour-related questions where some candidates were able to answer all questions; however, lower performing candidates showed weakness in the scenario-based questions.

Questions where technical terminology was used proved challenging especially to lower performing candidates. This resulted in marks lost across the paper.

Centres continue to prepare candidates well as the results demonstrate a higher percentage of candidates achieving merit in comparison to pass percentages. Centres are encouraged to help candidates develop their understanding of technical terminology across the qualification. Candidates would also benefit from further exam practice prior to sitting their assessment as a number of candidates appear to misread the questions, especially scenario-based, which often leads a missed opportunity to achieve marks.

Centres are reminded of the City and Guilds Technicals 'exam Guides' available here

https://www.cityandguilds.com/-
/media/productdocuments/land_based_services/animal_management/0172/0172_level_2/animal
_care/assessment_materials/0172-021_technicals_exam_document_2018_v1-pdf.ashx