

0172-526 – Level 2 Equine Care – Theory Exam

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;
0172-526 Level 2 Equine Care – Theory exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

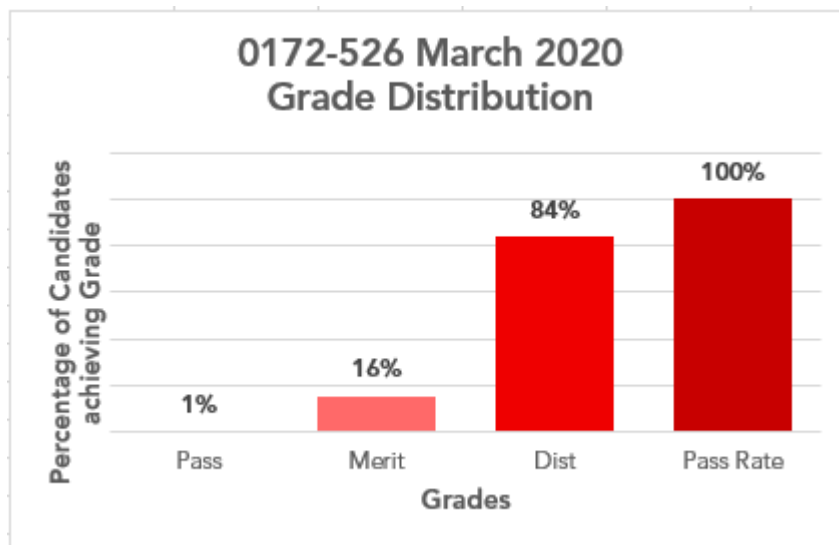
Assessment: **0172-526**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	
Pass mark	20
Merit mark	27
Distinction mark	35

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: 0172-526

Series 1 (March)

A good breadth of knowledge and understanding was seen across most of the units assessed in the examination suggesting candidates were well prepared. A smaller number of areas were not answered effectively with poor responses. These areas were mainly on the more theoretical/scientific questions which is a trend that has been seen in previous examinations.

Unit 231:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to equine health and welfare. Most questions within this unit were answered well by many candidates. The main areas of strength were questions on the topics of health assessments and health parameters, contagious disease protocol/isolation, the five animal needs, equine first aid kits and the importance of a balanced diet. The areas of the unit where most candidates struggled to achieve marks were on the more theoretical and understanding questions. These topics were related to identifying pathogens for specific disease, technical terminology for treatment of specific diseases and linking legislation to scenarios.

Unit 232:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to working in the equine industry. The main areas of strength were seen on the topics of employment responsibilities and employment contracts. The areas where candidates showed weakness were on the topics of maintaining the working environment and employment rights.

Unit 234:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to horse tack and equipment. Generally, the candidates answered the questions on this topic well. A large percentage of candidates correctly answered most questions. The areas which showed weakness in knowledge among some candidates were on the topics of identifying martingales and pelhams.

Unit 217:

This unit focuses on various topics in relation to feeding and watering horses. This unit had a higher number of topics where candidates showed a lack of knowledge and understanding. The main areas of strength in this unit were on the topics of identifying concentrate feeds and cross contamination. The areas where candidates performed less well were on the topics of forage to concentrate ratios, diets/feed stuffs for specific types of horses and rules of feeding.

Unit 222:

This unit focuses on the principles of lungeing horses and how this can be applied in practice. The candidate responses showed a high level of knowledge and understanding on all the topics assessed in the examination. The main areas of strength for this unit were on the topics of long reining and exercise to observe a horse's movement.

Integration questions:

Candidate responses showed both strengths and weaknesses in knowledge and understanding across the different topics. The main areas of strength seen were around travel items, legislation related to transporting horses and dealing with an anxious horse. The topics that were answered least effectively included identifying appropriate bits and the identification of health conditions based on specific symptoms.

Overall, candidates are showing improvement in the exams year on year. The vast majority of candidates were interpreting the questions correctly and gaining marks. The more

theoretical/scientific questions relating mostly to unit 231 and 217 were often the weakest for candidates and so these would be beneficial areas of focus during delivery, especially the understanding of nutrition/feeding principles and common diseases/conditions.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/animal-management/0172-technicals-in-animal-care-management-and-equine-care-management#tab=documents>