

# 0172-031/531 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate/Diploma in Animal Management

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;  
**0172-031/531 Level 3 Animal Management – Theory exam (1)**

# Theory Exam – March 2020

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

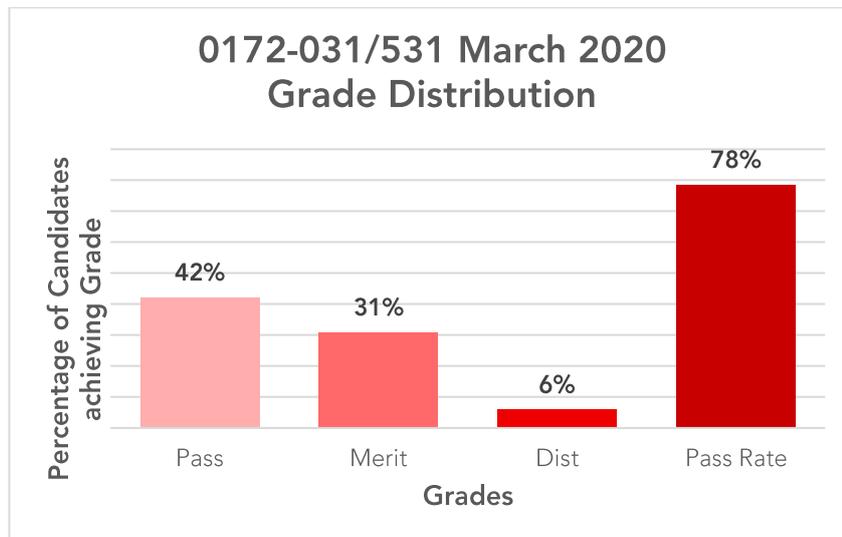
Assessment: **0172-031/531**

Series: **March 2020**

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	26
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

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: 0172-031/531

### Series 1 (March)

Overall, candidate performance is comparable to the previous exam series. Candidates generally showed stronger recall of knowledge in key areas. Improvements were also seen in question responses compared to previous exam series, allowing more candidates to gain higher marks. There was still a general trend of inaccuracy when using or understanding technical terminology.

Most candidates demonstrated good recall in **Unit 303 Animal Health and Husbandry** in topics such as procedures when determining the health of a mammal. Candidates were also able to demonstrate good recall of knowledge in **Unit 305 Animal Behaviour and Communication** identifying canine behaviour. One further area that attracted good responses was **Unit 304 Animal Feeding and Nutrition** where candidates demonstrated their understanding of small mammal diets, types and frequency of feeding, and feeding behaviours of wild and captive animals. It was noted that questions requiring a comparison contained stronger responses than in previous series, showing a better exam technique. Higher performing candidates demonstrated an understanding of legislation to support the welfare relating to farm livestock, management of notifiable disease outbreaks and intraspecific communication, providing a broad range of valid examples.

Particular areas of weakness included parasites acting as a vector and related disease, vitamin absorption and understanding of the absorption process, nutritional and behavioural technical terminology, and examples of specific types of behaviour. Many candidates did not focus on reading the question or provided statements rather than explanations where these were required.

The extended response question provided an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the housing and welfare considerations when accommodating more than one species within an enclosure. Candidates were able to access higher marks in comparison to the previous series. Lower performing candidates were seen to focus on the welfare of one species rather than two, or were more focused on the welfare or accommodation aspects. Many candidates also selected inappropriate species to be housed together, for example a prey and predator species. Higher performing candidates were able to select suitable species that can be housed together and provide detailed discussion on the housing and welfare needs of the selected species, the impacts of failing to meet these, with valid examples and consistent justifications.

Centres are advised to help candidates develop their use and understanding of technical terminology across the qualification. Candidates would further benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this exam to fully understand the requirements of the question before attempting to answer, particularly those that require candidates to demonstrate reasoning. Explain type of questions require candidates to demonstrate reasons and justifications to support the statements or cause and effect.

**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\\_3/animal\\_management/assessment\\_materials/0172-031\\_technicals\\_exam\\_document\\_2018\\_v2-pdf.ashx](https://www.cityandguilds.com/-/media/productdocuments/land_based_services/animal_management/0172/0172_level_3/animal_management/assessment_materials/0172-031_technicals_exam_document_2018_v2-pdf.ashx)