

0172-035/535 - Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Animal Management (720)

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;
0172-035/535 Level 3 Animal Management – Theory Exam (2)

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

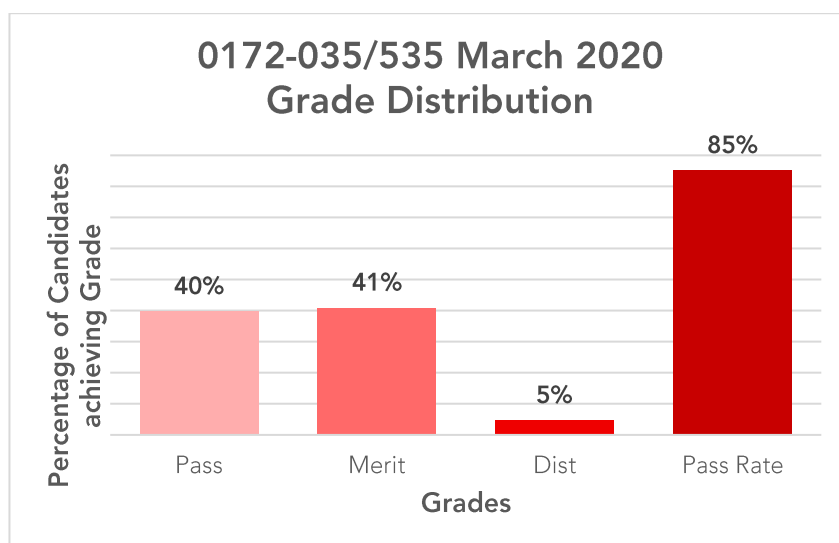
Assessment: **0172-035/535**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	44

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: 0172-035/535

Series 1 (March)

The examination paper is well-balanced covering a good range of learning outcomes across the qualification and is comparable to the June 2019 series in terms of range, suitability and level. Candidates generally performed well with the statement and recall-based questions. However, like previous series, many of the lower scoring candidates struggled to provide explanations, which resulted in missed opportunities to gain further marks. There were consistent inaccuracies with key technical terminology, which had a significant effect on the lower scoring candidates' ability to gain marks in some areas, following the trend from the previous series.

Most candidates demonstrated good recall of knowledge in areas such as animal records, managing risks when handling zoo animals, zoological and population dynamics terminology, primary and secondary consumers and causes of diseases in exotics species, which resulted in higher marks achieved across these topic areas. Questions relating to explaining convergent evolution and sources of exotic species provided opportunities for higher performing candidates to gain higher marks.

Areas of weakness included disadvantages of conservation methods and explaining population changes. Further areas of weakness related to national conservation organisations and conservation legislation. Many candidates found it challenging to link the husbandry of an exotic species with specific diseases, where candidates often repeated themselves or were unable to explain the impact of the diet or accommodation fixtures and fittings on the health of the animal.

The extended response question provided the candidate with the opportunity to gain a range of marks, however as per previous series, many of the candidates focused mainly on the welfare of animals (in many cases by briefly explaining the Five Animal Welfare Needs) rather than considering the welfare in relation to conservation efforts of the species. Many of the lower scoring candidates failed to link the two parts together and only provided basic discussion and limited justifications resulting in lower marks awarded.

Centres are advised to highlight to candidates the importance of legible handwriting to ensure markers can read and comprehend candidates' responses. Centres should also support candidates to 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 and learn how to plan for extended response questions. Explain questions require candidates to demonstrate reasons and justifications to support the statements or cause and effect made within the answers.

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/0172-035_technicals_exam_document_2018_v2-pdf.ashx