0172-039/539 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Animal Management (1080)

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;
0172-039/539 – Level 3 Animal Management - Theory exam (2)

Theory Exam – March 2020
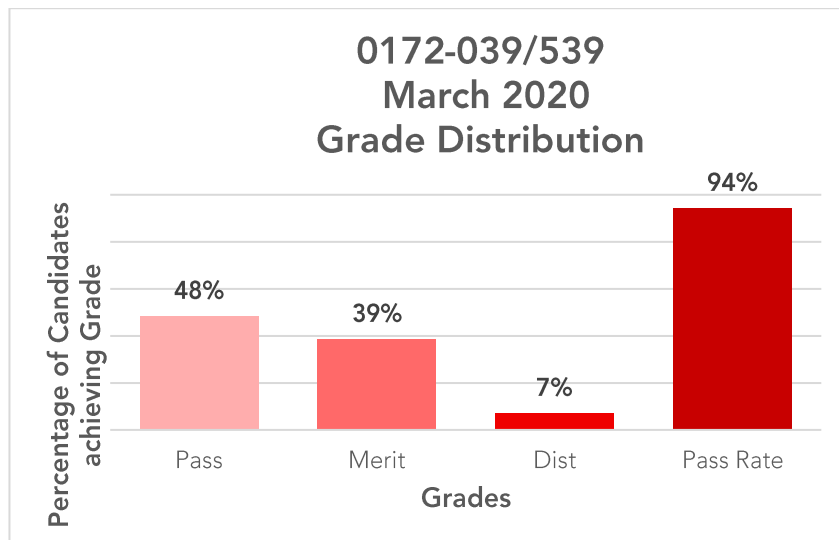
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0172-039/539**
Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

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: 0172-039/539

Series 1 (March)

The paper is comparable to previous series in relation to the range, suitability and level. Overall, a significant improvement in candidates' exam technique was seen for the short answer questions compared with last year. Candidates recognised the command verbs at the start of the question and were guided by the number of marks awarded for each question. However, this was not evident across the whole paper and all types of questions. There also appeared to be a lack of planning for the extended response question by most candidates, with many responses only including limited considerations with superficial explanations.

Most candidates demonstrated good recall of knowledge, particularly for questions relating to avian health, identification of individual animals and restraint of animals. Higher performing candidates were able to demonstrate clear understanding of topics related to enrichment, quarantine procedures and growth of land-based businesses. They were able to evidence their understanding by providing accurate explanations and justifications. Technical terminology was generally utilised accurately by many candidates.

Areas of weakness were seen in questions relating to fish characteristics, fish health (**Unit 313: Aquatics husbandry and welfare**) and business structures (**Unit 364: Business management in the Land-Based sector**). A general lack of understanding of technical terminology relating to these topics was evident. When addressing the importance of water quality in an aquarium, candidates commonly described the nitrogen cycle rather than ensuring their responses answered the question being asked. Many candidates provided only statements for "explain" type questions meaning they could not access full marks for these questions.

The extended response question (ERQ) was generally not answered well. Candidates were asked to discuss considerations relating to enclosure design when keeping birds in a zoological collection. Responses to this topic were not as good as seen in previous series and often lacked planning and justification. Higher performing candidates were able to consider a range of factors that were clearly explained and justified, utilising technical terminology accurately and consistently. Factors related to the breeding of birds were often brief or missing and there were some candidates who discussed methods of promotion from a business perspective, which was not the requirement of the question. Most candidates discussed the five welfare needs but often went off topic discussing factors such as feeding and enrichment that were not relevant to the question.

Centres are advised to highlight to candidates the importance of legible handwriting to ensure markers can read and comprehend candidates' responses. Centres should also further support candidates to develop their use and understanding of technical terminology across the qualification. Candidates would further benefit from practicing examination techniques when preparing for this exam to understand fully the requirements of the question before attempting to answer and learn how to plan for extended response questions. Explain type questions require candidates to demonstrate reasons and justifications to support the statements or cause and effect made within the answers. Candidates should also avoid providing answers with statements containing the same information from opposite angles in an attempt to gain more marks (eg too much sedative and not enough sedative).

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'exam guides' available here
https://www.cityandguilds.com/-
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_management/assessment_materials/0172-039_technicals_exams_document_2018_v2-
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