

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

March 2022

Chief 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 2022** 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 Advanced Technical Certificate/Diploma in Animal Management – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

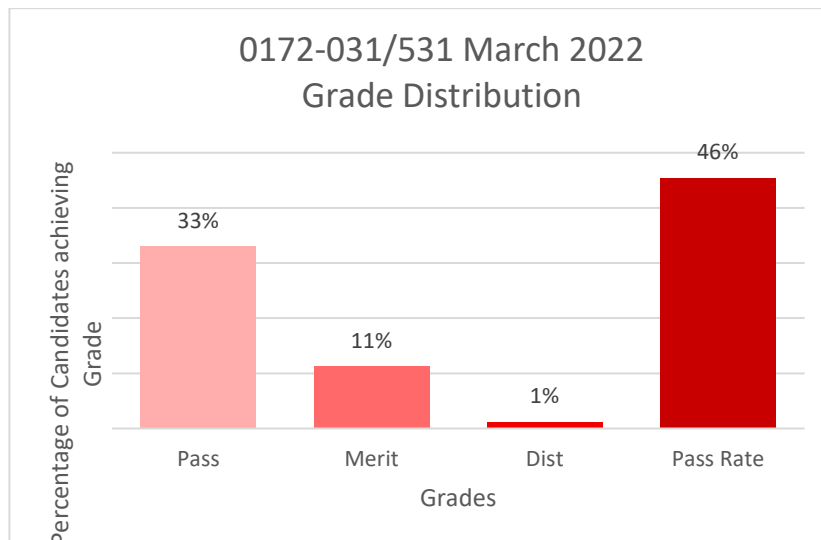
Assessment: **0172-031/531**

Series: **March 2022**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
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)

Candidate performance in this series was lower than seen in previous exam series, with an average mark of **23.6** compared to **30.2** in March 2020. While candidates generally showed good recall in the some of the key areas, most topics showed inconsistent knowledge and understanding across all candidates. The lack of exam technique, particularly in the questions that require reasoning, cause and/or justifications, was particularly evident. There was also a general trend of inaccuracy when using or understanding technical terminology.

Candidates demonstrated relatively good recall in **Unit 303 Animal Health and Husbandry** in topics such as procedures when determining the health of an animal or actions to be taken in non-routine animal health situations. Candidates were also able to demonstrate recall in **Unit 304 Animal Feeding and Nutrition** when considering appropriate feeding methods for a specific animal species. **Unit 305 Animal Behaviour and Communication** showed some good answers for questions relating to territorial behaviour in animals, what contributes to the development of behaviour, and rearing strategies.

It is noted that candidates lacked knowledge in some of the key topics. Many did not focus on meeting the requirements of the AO2 questions by providing statements rather than explanations, and without expanding their answers to show depth of knowledge and understanding. As mentioned, this was not only observed in the lower but also in some of the higher scoring candidate groups.

Specific questions from the following topics showed particularly low performance across AO1 and AO2 questions for the paper-based version of the exam sat by most of the cohort.

- **Recognise indicators of health in animals** with 60% of candidates receiving 0 marks
- **Understand common diseases and disorders, their treatment and prevention** with 84% of candidates scoring between 0-1 marks with only 1.8% achieving full marks
- **How to deliver a range of basic routine and non-routine animal treatments safely in line with codes of practice and legislation** showing 74% of candidates scoring between 1-2 marks with only 3.1% scoring full marks
- **Common diseases and disorders in animals and their impact on health and welfare** with 57.3% scoring 0 marks
- **Dietary requirements for different life stages and conditions, and how these influence the development of a feeding plan** showing 74% candidates scoring 0-1 mark with only 4.2% achieving full marks
- **Design a feeding plan** 5.6% of candidates achieved full marks.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended response question provided an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the housing and care considerations when accommodating multiple animals of the same species. Most candidates were able to give a range of considerations and clear discussion around the topic. Lower performing candidates were seen to focus on either the five-animal welfare needs or provide statements without an attempt to explain. Higher performing candidates were able to provide a wide range of considerations around the multiple animals' care and housing needs, clear discussion was often seen on the impact of separating said animals in addition to holistic considerations with valid examples. However, the lack of sufficient justification was evident with very few candidates scoring high marks.

Candidate achievement for the ERQ across the three bands was as follows.

Band 1: 39% accessed marks within this band

Band 2: 52% accessed marks within this band

Band 3: 9% accessed marks within this band.

Centres are advised to help candidates develop their use and understanding of technical terminology across the qualification.

Candidates are also strongly advised to practice 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 questions require candidates to demonstrate reasons and justifications to support the statements or cause and effect.

Past papers and marking schemes are available on the City and Guilds website which should be used for exam practice.

City & Guilds also offers a technical exam guide to support the work on the exam technique.

All documents are available to download from [Technicals in Animal Care Management and Equine Care Management qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications)

Past papers and marking schemes: Documents – Level 3 – Assessment materials – Past Papers tabs

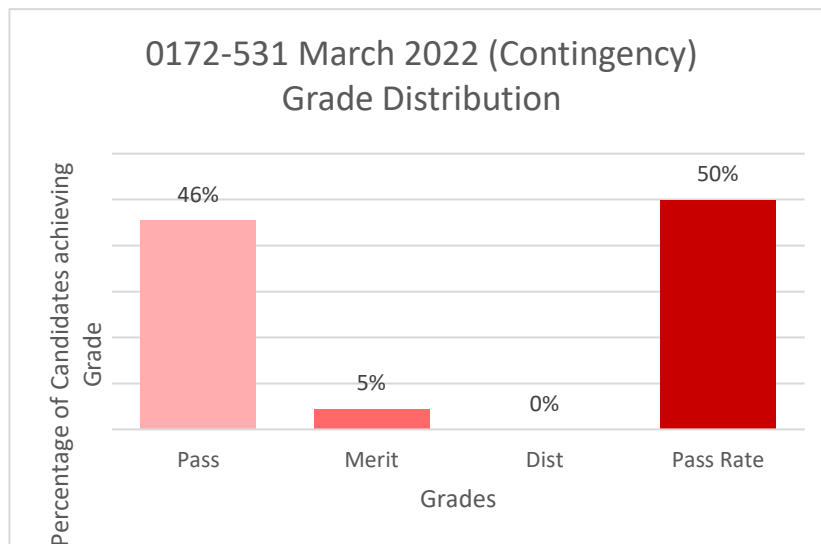
Exam guide: Documents – Level 3 – Assessment materials

Series 1 Contingency paper (sat by a cohort of 22 candidates at end of the Spring (March 2022) series)

The grade boundaries for this assessment **are the same as the March 2022 exam:**

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

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



This exam was sat by a cohort of 22 candidates. They performed in a similar way to the cohort taking the main March 2022 exam, with the mean mark of 25.1. Inconsistent knowledge and understanding, and use of technical terminology, with the lack of good exam technique, were the main characteristics of this cohort.

Where candidates showed good recall, it was in some of the key areas, specifically around impacts of animal health and, to some extent, animal behaviour.

Specific questions from the following topics showed particularly low performance across AO1 and AO2 questions.

- **Digestion and absorption of the major nutrients within the animal's body** with 72% of candidates scoring 0 marks
- **Design feeding plan** with 60% of candidates achieving 0 marks

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended response question provided an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the welfare considerations for a group of primates in a zoo. The majority of candidates were within band 1, showing a lack of breadth and depth of knowledge. Only a few candidates were able to achieve marks in band 2. Most candidates focused on one aspect of the topic in more detail or provided statements without an attempt at explanation. Some well-planned answers were observed but these were not matched with valid points and sufficient justifications.

Candidate achievement for the ERQ across the three bands was as follows.

Band 1: 92% accessed marks within this band

Band 2: 8% accessed marks within this band

Band 3: 0% accessed marks within this band.