

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

March 2022

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.

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

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

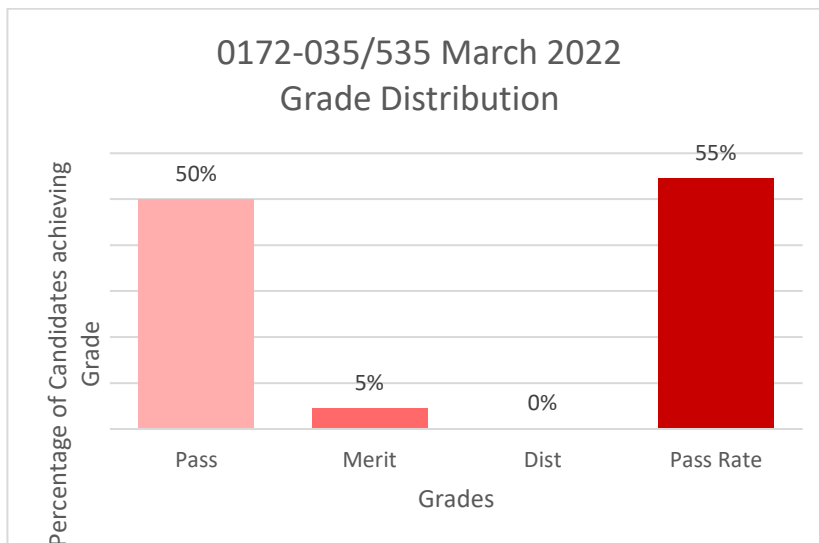
Assessment: **0172-035/535**

Series: **March 2022**

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	43

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 exam entry size has increased by 33% from March 2020. Overall candidates' performance on the paper was lower than previously seen, with the average mark of 26.1 compared to 32.5 in March 2020. Higher number of candidates scored lower marks than in the previous series.

Candidates provided somewhat good levels of recall in most areas however the majority of responses did not provide the depth required to access the full range of marks available – which appeared in part due to inexperienced exam technique and lack of familiarity on how to respond to the command verb used in a question.

Candidates showed good recall on the subject of global wildlife fluctuations as part of **Unit 308 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation**. **Unit 310 Exotic Animal Health and Husbandry** provided some good answers about breeding strategies, consequences of inappropriate housing of animals and biosecurity. Candidates showed knowledge relating to dealing with emergencies as part of **Unit 316 Zoological Collections**.

Candidates lacked knowledge in some of the key topics such as legislation and technical terminology. Many also missed to meet the requirements of the AO2 questions by providing simplistic answers instead of explanations or expanding their answers to demonstrate depth of knowledge and understanding. While this is mostly applicable to the low-scoring group, it is also observed in the high-scoring group to some extent.

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

- **Population dynamics** with 95% of candidates scoring 0-1 mark and only 5% scoring top marks
- **National and international conservation strategies for wildlife and their habitats** showing 85% of the cohort scoring 0-1 marks with 0% achieving full marks
- **Requirements of zoo animal husbandry** with 86% of candidates scoring 0-1 marks
- **Sourcing and legislation of exotic animal species** with 75% of candidates achieving 0-1 mark
- **The role of the modern zoo** showing 77% of the cohort scoring 0-1 marks with 2.3% achieving full marks

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended response question required candidates to discuss the benefits and implications of school encounters in a zoo setting. In general, the ERQ was answered poorly with the majority of candidates only accessing the marks in Band 1 providing superficial answers. Most candidates provided descriptive considerations with some valid examples, including safety, stress and injury to the animal and handler, along with being able to deliver hands on experience providing engagement to school groups. However, many candidates failed to discuss legislation and the impact this has on welfare. Many answers provided a lot of repetition with some just focusing on stress and injury to the animal. Higher scoring candidates were able to give linked responses to the scenario, showing thorough knowledge and understanding to animal welfare and educational benefits.

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

Band 1: 59% accessed marks within this band

Band 2: 38% accessed marks within this band

Band 3: 3% 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 type of 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