

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

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

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

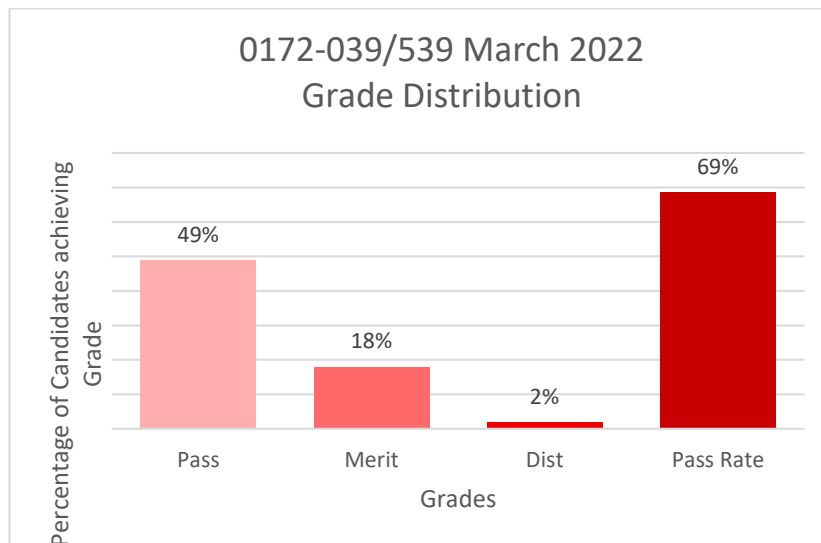
Assessment: **0172-039/539**

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	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)

Candidate performance in this series was lower than that seen in previous series with an average mark for the March 2022 series of **26.2** compared to **32.4** in March 2020.

While candidates generally showed good recall in the key areas, some inconsistencies in knowledge and understanding were also noted. Candidates did not show the expected level of exam technique, particularly in the questions that require reasoning, cause and/or justifications, which was noted across all levels of achievement. Technical terminology was still inaccurately used and understood by many candidates.

Candidates demonstrated good recall in **Unit 313 Aquatics Husbandry and Welfare** in relation to the suitability of locations for an aquarium, and ethics of sourcing aquatic livestock. **Unit 314 Avian Health and Husbandry** saw candidate strength in the knowledge related to avian health. **Unit 364 Business Management in Land-based Sector** showed some good answers in relation to influences of business markets, and financial records.

It was noted that candidates lacked sufficient knowledge in some of the key topics. Many did not focus on meeting the requirements of the AO2 questions and provided statements rather than more fuller explanations, and without expanding their answers to show depth of knowledge and understanding.

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.

- **Understand commonly kept fish species and aspects of their biology** with 72% of the cohort scoring 0-1 mark with only 5.8% achieving all 4 marks
- **Analyse foods and feeding techniques for aquatic species** with 79% of candidates scoring 0 -1 mark, with only 6% achieving all 3 marks available
- **Understand the requirements of zoo animal husbandry** with 80% of candidates scoring 0 marks

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended response question provided an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the sourcing and conservation considerations for a specific animal type within the zoo environment. Most candidates accessed Band 1, with answers often focused solely on husbandry and lacking conservation or sourcing explanations. Breadth with some depth was often seen when candidates discussed sourcing. Candidates were able to state relevant legislation but often lacked application. Technical terminology was seen to be applied inconsistently throughout the scripts. Where candidates did not achieve band 2, minimal to no technical terminology was used and there was a clear lack of discussion showing breadth of knowledge and understanding. Candidates that achieved band 2 and higher were able to provide a planned approach to the ERQ, discussing relevant conservation plans with valid links and some justification.

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

Band 1: 80% accessing marks in this band

Band 2: 18% accessing marks in this band

Band 3: 2% accessing marks in 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