

0172-006/506 – Level 3 Equine Management - Theory exam (2)

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;
0172-006/506 – Level 3 Equine Management - Theory exam (2)

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

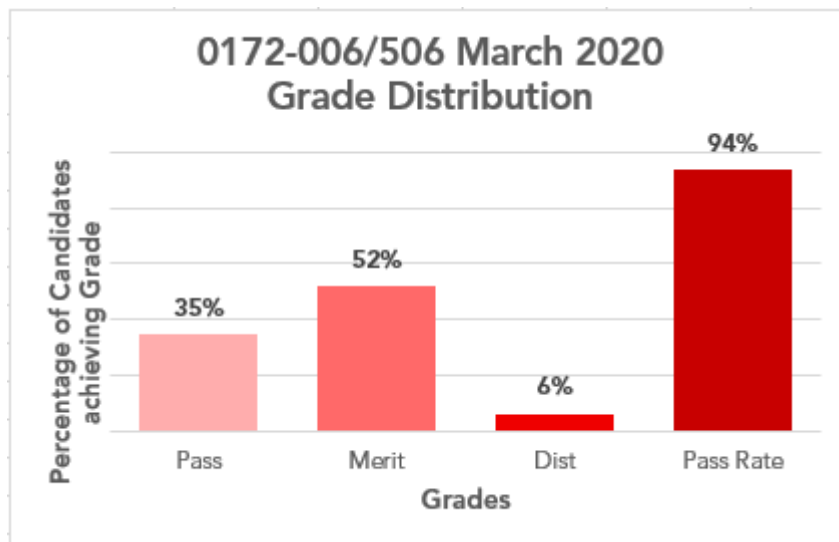
Assessment: **0172-006/506**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	
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: 0172-006/506

Series 1 (March)

As in previous years, candidate performance was stronger in questions where recall of facts was required [AO1] especially on the more practical based questions. However, there was a general weakness in the ability to read questions, show an understanding of command verbs and examination technique. For example, candidates showed a poor ability to read the questions where they were asked for positive points and gave answers relating to negative points. So, when asked about a balanced seat they generally gave answers relating to an unbalanced seat.

Although spelling and grammar are not marked in these examinations, it should be noted some candidates made significant errors in their responses and struggled where key technical terms were required. Handwriting was at times illegible on the written examination scripts. Candidates must be aware that all written work must be fully legible.

Unit 355

This unit focuses on equine feeding and nutrition. The candidates' strengths were shown with good knowledge on the effect of nutritional elements but were less confident on the digestive system. The weaknesses shown by candidates demonstrated misinterpretation of the questions. For example, when discussing the benefits of a feed type, they gave a comparison between two feeds rather than only discussing the feed type asked for in the question. Likewise, the answers were weak on considerations for feeding methods with the candidates confusing it with considerations for a feeding plan.

Unit 358

This unit focuses on the principles of equitation. On the whole this unit was answered better than 355. Strengths were shown with good knowledge when answering the questions on jumping improvements and faults. Areas of weakness were shown around the topic of basic flat work training, the importance of a balanced set and at times dynamic conformation was confused with static conformation.

Extended response question

This question focused on nutritional and training considerations to bring a horse back into work. Candidates were mostly able to give answers that related to the content of the question. However, some failed to consider that the question was asking for a discussion and often used bullet points. They showed a weakness in their ability to expand and discuss the subject, often listing training requirements with little awareness of the progression required or eliminating health issues. Most candidates failed to cover scales of training and exercises to improve technique.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates also need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper and need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.

For preparation for the extended response question, the key areas of focus to improve candidate marks across a range of abilities are:

- Plan the answer to aid in a clear and focused discussion.
- Include a wide range of descriptive information that relates to the topic. A wider range of basic information will improve marks in the lower banding.

- Improving candidate ability to explain and justify their comments will improve marks towards higher bandings.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/animal-management/0172-technicals-in-animal-care-management-and-equine-care-management#tab=documents>