4292-20 – Level 2 Technical Award in Vehicle Technology

2022

Qualification Report

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Foreword

Results August 2022

As you will likely be aware, Ofqual has announced that grading for General Qualifications this summer will be more generous than prior to the pandemic. This is partly due to managing the impact of disruption and learning loss on learner performance and also managing fairness between learners in different years who had different methods of determining their grades. Therefore, for A levels and GCSEs, grading will seek a midway position between 2019 and 2021, meaning, in general, results will be somewhat higher than prior to the pandemic. This year, 2022, is a transitional year and outcomes and standards will likely return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

Similarly, for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs), this summer will be a transitional year and Ofqual has now been clear that for VTQs "we should expect that this summer's results will look different, despite exams and assessments taking a big step towards normality." Ofqual has published a blog What's behind this summer's VTQ results.

In acknowledgement of the disruption to learning and to support fairness for all learners certificating this summer (some of whom will be competing against learners taking General Qualifications for the same progression and higher education opportunities), we will be taking loss of learning into consideration, whilst still acknowledging the need to uphold the validity of the qualifications. On this basis, we have made the decision to apply a form of 'safety net' through some additional 'generosity' to both the theory examinations and synoptic assignments within our Technical Qualifications wherever appropriate, (noting that it may not be appropriate to apply where there is a clear impact on knowledge and skills to practice, particularly health and safety requirements or other relevant legislation). We are therefore also reviewing candidate work a few marks below (equivalent to 5% of maximum marks) the Pass and Distinction notional boundaries – the boundaries used during the awarding process as the best representation of maintaining the performance standard from 2019.

The reason for lowering boundaries, where appropriate, by 5% of the maximum marks available, is that it is broadly commensurate with the level of generosity learners are likely to see in General Qualifications at level 2 and level 3. Providing that senior examiners can support the quality of learners' work seen below the notional boundaries and agree it is sufficient to maintain the integrity, meaning and credibility of the qualifications, the grade boundaries will be lowered across the full set of grades – e.g Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction Star.

Given the circumstances, this is the best approach to take into account the disruption to teaching and learning across every learner in a fair and transparent way, and at the same time maintain the integrity and meaning of qualifications. This approach helps to level our Technical Qualifications awarding approach with that adopted for General Qualifications and other qualifications awarded in England and in the wider UK.

Spring examination series 2022

Having taken this decision, we are also mindful of learners who have taken components in **Spring 2022** and believe they should also have access to the same level of generosity. For these learners, we wish to adopt a similar approach. Therefore, for learners taking Technical Qualification assessments in spring there will be similar generosity, through the addition of 5% of the maximum mark available for the assessment. It is a different mechanism to that we are using for the summer assessments but provides the same level of generosity to those learners taking assessments in the summer.

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

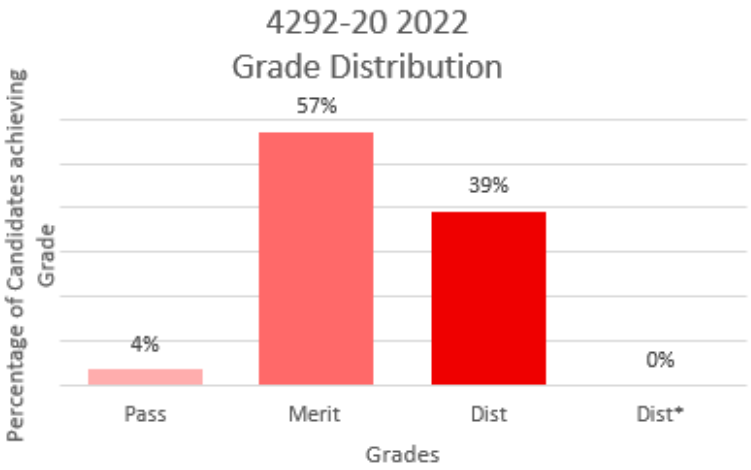
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2022 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 4292-020/520 - Level 2 Technical Award in Vehicle Technology – Theory exam
    - March 2022 (Spring)
    - June 2022 (Summer)
- 4292-021 – Level 2 Technical Award in Vehicle Technology – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.

Theory Exam

Grade Boundaries

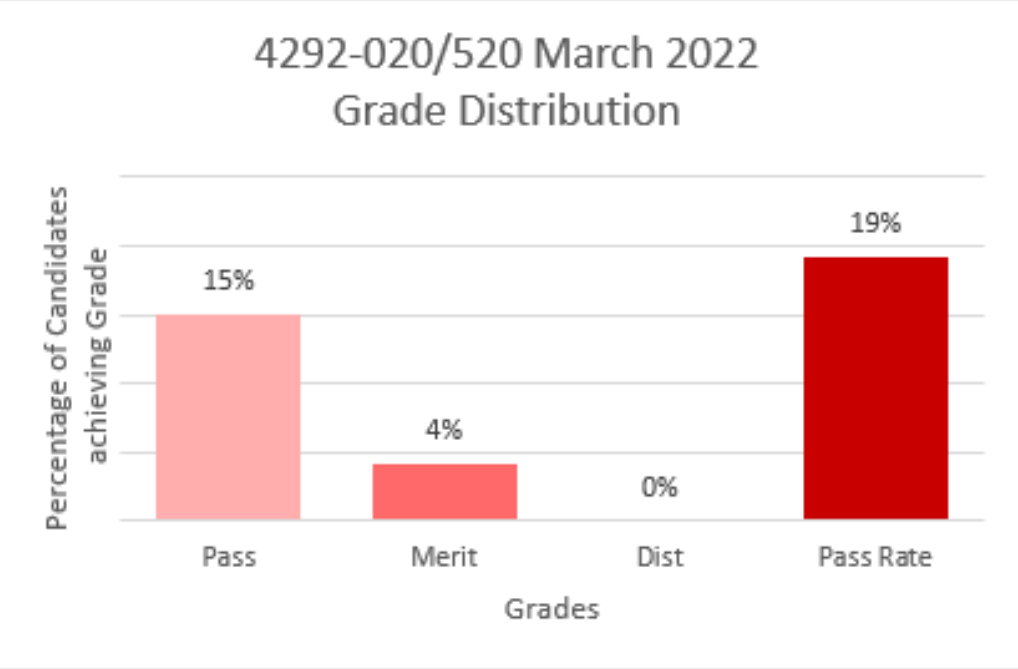
Assessment: 4292-020/520
Series: March 2022 (Spring)

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 generosity applied to the summer assessments will also retrospectively be applied to candidates who achieved their best result in spring. 5% of the base mark of the assessment will be added to their score rather than applied to boundaries.

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment, it does not account for any marks that have been amended due to generosity:

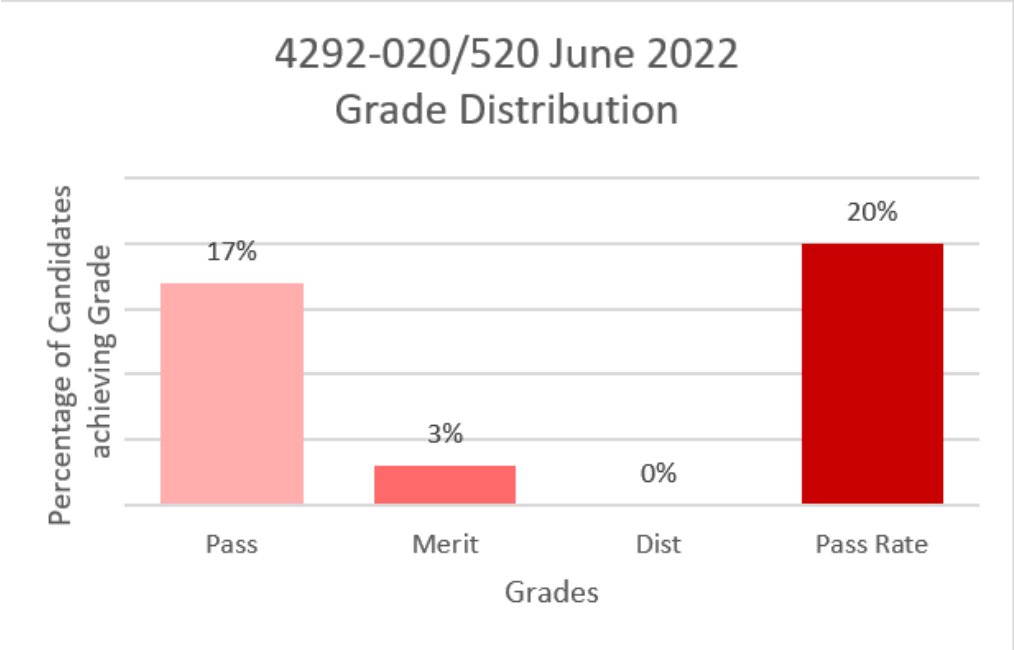


Assessment: 4292-020/520
Series: June 2022 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	21
Merit mark	30
Distinction mark	39

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:



Chief Examiner Commentary

4292-020/520 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Automotive - Theory exam

Series 1 – March 2022

The candidates' performance for this exam series is in line with previous series however overall was very disappointing. The majority of candidates achieved low marks across the paper due to their limited understanding of the knowledge requirements within the qualification specification. There is a limited difference in the quality of answers provided from this series to the 2020 series.

Candidates demonstrated a basic understanding of some areas, including basic electrical calculations and light vehicle simple suspension components. These areas tended to be on AO1 questions where candidates were asked to state answers. There was also a noticeable strong performance against an electrical calculation question. When attempted, candidates tended to score highly on this question.

Candidates who scored higher marks showed a far greater depth of knowledge and attempted to answer a greater proportion of questions. These candidates were able to demonstrate understanding of the questions and the key command verb used.

Candidates demonstrated some confusion around identifying common measurement tools and headlight lamps. Questions relating to tyre pressure, heavy vehicles and questions relating to all-terrain vehicles were not well answered.

Candidates struggled to adequately interpret the command verb 'explain' and often their responses failed to effectively demonstrate any depth of understanding, instead just stating basic information. A limited number of candidates demonstrated a higher level of detail when answering the questions, but a high proportion of candidates left questions unanswered.

In the extended response question, most candidates submitted a limited volume of work and did not focus on the indicative content that the question context set out and therefore were not able to access higher marks. They discussed a limited range of topics and in some cases presented the same information numerous times in multiple ways. Some interesting opinions were provided from the limited answers given; however, these were often not technically correct and demonstrated misunderstanding of fundamental concepts. A number of candidates did not demonstrate understanding of the fundamental correlation between different suspension types and their applications and this limited the marks for candidates. Only a small number of candidates managed to score marks beyond Band 1.

Candidates need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper. They 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.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/transport-maintenance/automotive/4292-technicals-in-automotive#tab=documents

Series 2 – June 2022

The candidates' performance for this exam series was low. The majority of candidates were awarded low marks due to their limited understanding of the knowledge requirements. There is a limited difference in the quality of answers provided from this series to the 2021 series.

Candidates demonstrated a basic understanding in most areas, including basic electrical calculations, vehicle battery types and applications and light vehicle simple suspension components.

Candidates who performed better showed a marginally greater depth of knowledge. These candidates were able to demonstrate some understanding of the questions and the key command verb used.

Candidates were unable, in the majority of questions, to adequately interpret the command verb in the question to effectively explain, describe or state the correct answers. A very limited number of candidates demonstrated a moderately higher level of detail when answering the questions and a high proportion of candidates did not answer all questions.

In the extended response question most candidates submitted a limited volume of work and did not focus on the indicative content required and therefore were not able to access higher marks. They discussed a very limited range of topics and in some cases presented the same information in multiple ways. Some interesting opinions were presented from the limited answers given however these were often not technically correct. A number of candidates did not demonstrate understanding of the fundamental operating differences and running characteristics between different fuel types and their applications. This limited the marks awarded for candidates.

Candidates need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper. They 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.

Synoptic Assignment

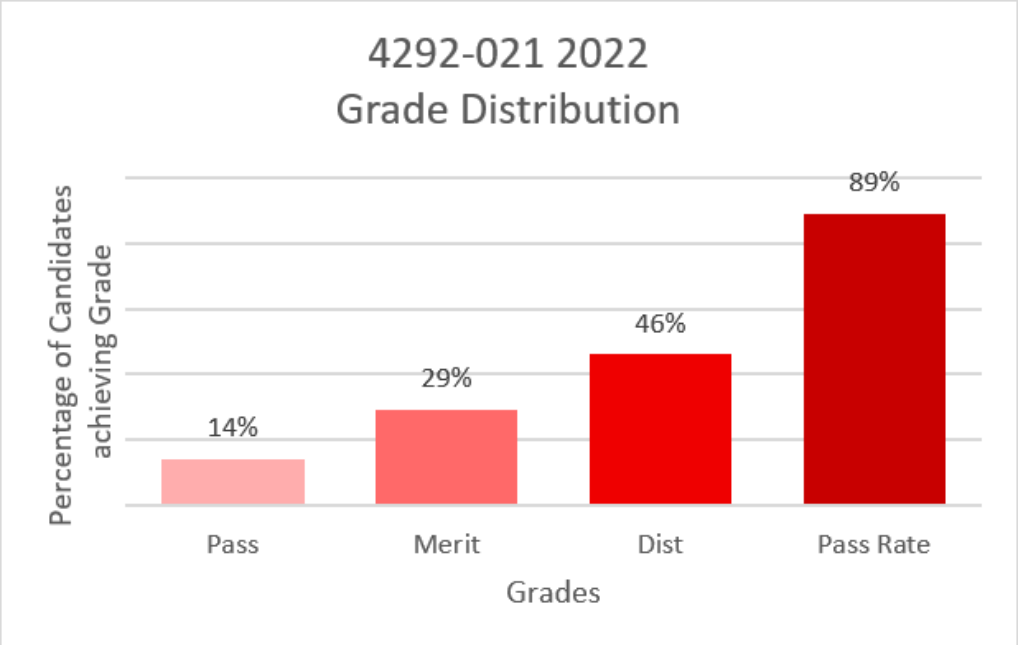
Grade Boundaries

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Assessment: 4292-021
Series: 2022

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	21
Merit mark	30
Distinction mark	39

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:



Principal Moderator Commentary

Overall candidates performed well. The majority of tasks were written and presented clearly. In particular, the candidates performed well in the fabrication task.

Throughout all tasks most candidates were able to recall information and required minimal prompting from tutors, thus demonstrating a level of knowledge and understanding. Candidates were able to follow processes and interpret information.

Images were used to support the evidence submitted and demonstrate the task being undertaken. On occasions images only showed the rear view of the candidate's head and the rear view of their back when testing a vehicle's battery. A little more thought into the composition and detail would be beneficial.

The CRF's were generally detailed, and candidates performed well. Evidence was clear and concise. Tutors provided effective feedback to support candidate's practical work.

It was clear that markers considered awarding marks across the full range of Assessment Objectives in all tasks and used a holistic marking approach when awarding final marks.

AO1 – Recall of knowledge relating to the qualification
Feedback from tutors was generally clear and concise. It was easy to follow and explained well how each individual gained marks in almost all cases.

AO2 – Understanding of concepts, theories and processes relating to the LOs
Candidates gained marks holistically throughout tasks. Tutors seemed to understand the marking criteria, providing a good rationale for each result.

AO3 – Application of practical/technical skills
The grading was holistic from across all the tasks of the assignment. The tutors provided detailed explanations on the practical activity, and how each candidate gained marks.

AO4 –Bringing it all together – coherence of the whole subject
Candidates were able to bring together their range of technical skills, knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Tutors generally provided a clear rationale as to how marks were achieved.

AO5 – Attending to detail/perfecting
The comments showed how the tutors achieved the result and there are comments on how the candidates achieved the marks awarded in bringing it all together.