

Advice for teachers

- Ensure students practise the areas of the syllabus relating to the use of Pearson square, trial data analysis, heritability calculations, digestive systems, market requirements, changing circumstances, short and long-term strategies to respond to impacts of climate change and advantages and disadvantages of tariffs.
- Cover one enterprise and its marketable product in depth so that students have a solid example to use in the examination.
- Ensure students practise extended answers where they must plan their response.
- Ensure students understand climate change and the strategies that can be used to mitigate the problems that will befall livestock productivity.
- Ensure that students have adequate practise in analysing data from graphs and tables.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)

This section was well done with a mean of 72.04%. The easiest Questions were 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13 and 19. The most difficult questions were 2, 9, 12 and 18. In Question 2, most candidates chose either pedigrees or estimated breeding values (EBV's) whereas product variation can be quantified by objective measurement. In Question 9, fat score is mostly affected by energy in the ration not protein. In Question 12, the responses were spread indicating many candidates guessed. In Question 18, there was a lack of understanding between avoidance and mitigation.

Section Two: Short answer (93 Marks)

Candidates handled pesticide resistance, graphing, setting up a trial and the role of hormones in breeding programs well. There were gaps in candidate knowledge and this had an effect on the mean.

Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Question 28 was a compulsory question with a majority of candidates selecting Question 29 as their optional question. The extended answer section had the lowest mean of the three sections of the examination. Candidates appeared to lack depth or understanding of basic market requirements for their nominated animal enterprise and marketable product, how an identified animal enterprise could alter operations based upon changing circumstances, explaining strategies to respond to climate change in the short and long-term for sustainability of an animal enterprise and the advantages and disadvantages of tariffs to protect markets.