



**June 2024**

**Diploma in Distilling Module 1  
Examination Report**

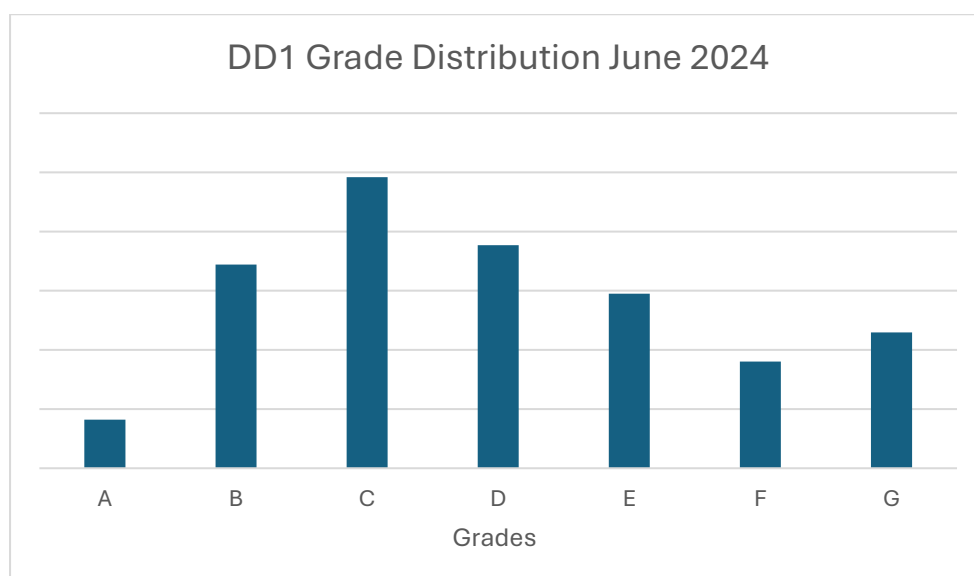
The Diploma level qualification examinations test candidate's knowledge across the full breadth of the stated syllabus and not just specific units or topics. In order to achieve a positive result when taking the examination, candidates must ensure that as part of their learning and revisions they have covered the full breadth and depth of the syllabus.

This knowledge is tested in two ways:

- Section A of the examination which is a series of 'short answer questions' and
- Section B of the examination where candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate the depth of their knowledge through answering their selection of four 'long answer questions' from the six provided.

### **Diploma in Distilling – Module 1**

- N° candidates = 122
- Average time candidates spent in exam = 2hrs 47 mins (total time allowed is 3 hrs + 15 mins reading time)
- Overall cohort pass rate = 65%
- Cohort performance split by grade boundary:



### **General Commentary from Examiners**

- Reading and Understanding
  - Candidates should carefully read instructions that are given, in the lead up to and during the examination, it is clear that this is not happening in all cases. An example of this would be in the long answer section of the examination where a **significant**

number of candidates either answered **fewer** than, or **more** than, the required 4 out of 6 of the long answer questions.

- Additionally, some candidates would benefit from reading the examination questions carefully to ensure they are clear on what is being asked.
- In the long answer section of the paper, especially, candidates need to show depth of understanding, and this is by fully answering the questions with detail.
- If whilst taking their examination, candidates wish to pause on a question and move on to the next, they can use the 'flag' function in TestReach to select a question that they wish to come back to and check they have read what the question is asking, or re-check the answer they have chosen. Instructions on how to use this function are provided in the online tutorial that candidates are provided with at time of enrolment into the TR system several weeks in advance of their examination.
- Time Management
  - Whilst candidates are generally using the majority of their allocated examination time, we do see opportunities for candidates to better plan their time during their examination. Based on the average time candidates spent in their examination, another 15% of the total time was still available for candidates to complete their paper.
  - The examination commences with 15 minutes reading time, candidates are advised to utilise this time effectively to plan before commencing writing bearing in mind that
    - Section A of the examination counts towards 33.3% of the total mark and
    - Section B 66.6% of the total mark.
  - Therefore, the relative amount of time in the examination should be allocated to these sections accordingly. We do see that quite a number of candidates are spending too long in Section A to the detriment of their scores in Section B.
  - It is also good examination practice for candidates to go back through their answers once finished, their examination before submitting it, to check they are happy with their responses.
- Application of Knowledge
  - It is useful to remind candidates that the two sections of the examination are there to test different skills:
    - Section A requires short answers that may test recall, terminology, standard equations or principles etc
    - Section B requires candidates to demonstrate application of their detailed technical knowledge. Answers should include full sentences and full explanations as well as depth and details.
    - There were no areas in this examination that were generally answered well or poorly that can be highlighted. We do recommend however that

candidates read the feedback above and ensure that they study the syllabus in depth utilising the Learning materials supplied by IBD as well as studying more widely using IBD magazines and any other suggested reading materials.