

# **0174-021/521 Level 2 Horticulture– Theory Exam**

**March 2023**

## **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 2023** 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;

**0174-021/521 Level 2 Horticulture– Theory Exam**

# Theory Exam – March 2023

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

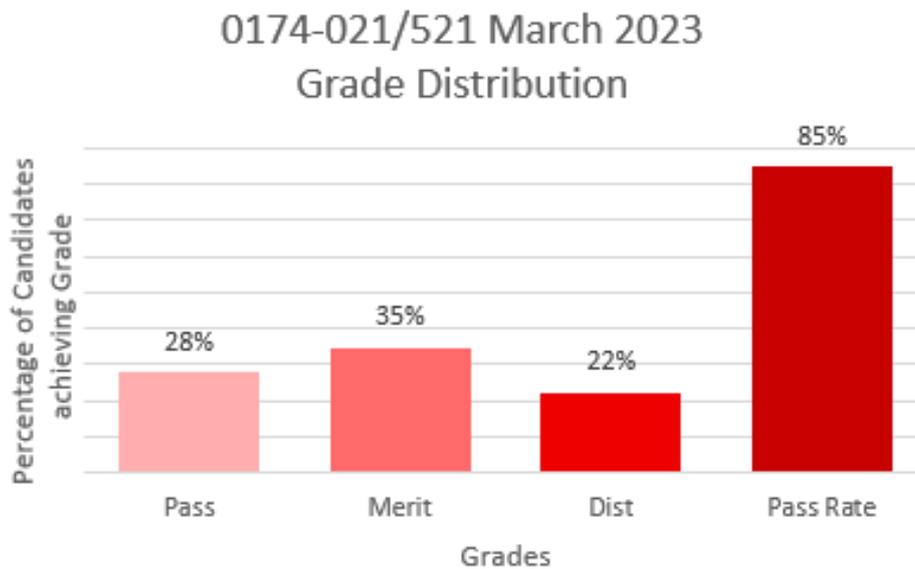
Assessment: **0174-021/521**

Series: **March 2023**

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

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Total marks available</b> | <b>40</b> |
| Pass mark                    | 16        |
| Merit mark                   | 21        |
| Distinction mark             | 27        |

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: 0174-021/521**

### Series 1 (March)

The paper was set at the appropriate level, was consistent with the test specification and featured a mixture of AO1 recall, AO2 understanding and AO4 applied knowledge questions. The terminology and technical content assessed in the question paper was to the correct level 2 standard.

The paper contained a good mix of questions for each topic area with a range of difficulty allowing for differentiation in knowledge.

Overall, AO1 questions were effectively answered by most candidates, and AO2 questions proved more difficult. AO4 scenario-based questions were found to be most challenging.

The strongest performing units were:

- Unit 202 Working in the horticulture industry.
- Unit 204 Preparation, planting and maintenance of plants.

The units that were seen to be more difficult were

- Unit 203 Plant naming, identification, selection and science
- Unit 206 Horticultural Business Practices.

Questions on botanical aspects caused difficulty across all levels of achievement and should be a renewed focus for future delivery. It was also notable that the questions on soils (structure and cultivation) proved challenging for lower-achieving candidates. This is a fundamental subject for horticulture and one that should be grasped by all candidates and entrants to the industry.

The AO4 scenario-based section of questions demonstrated a clear differentiation of performance between higher and lower achieving candidates and consideration could be given to ensuring that candidates are aware of the nature and methodology of this style of questioning.

An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates. Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully.

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

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/horticulture/0174-technical-in-horticulture-and-forestry-arboriculture#tab=documents>