

# 0174-514 - Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (1080)

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;  
**0174-514 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture – Theory Exam (2).**

# Theory Exam – March 2023

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

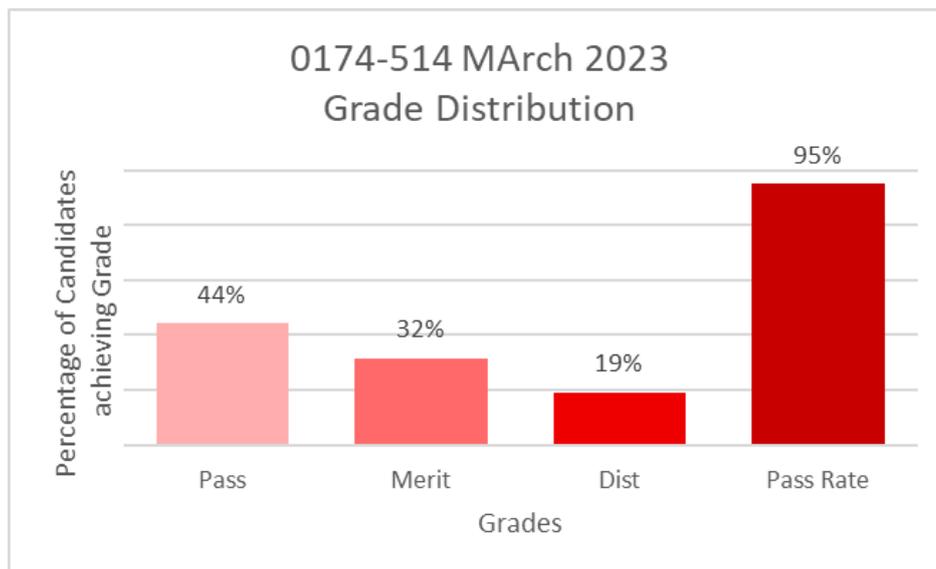
Assessment: **0174-514**

Series: **March 2023**

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	43

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: 0174-514

### Series 1 (March 2023)

Most candidates made an attempt at all questions, with greater success in the knowledge-based questions than those requiring explanations / descriptions, where some candidates failed to provide the details required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

### Strengths and weaknesses

Although there was a good range of knowledge and understanding shown across the units being tested, areas of particular strength included fundamental knowledge of the features that help with the identification of trees, factors to consider when planting trees, basic tree pathology and questions related to practical knowledge e.g. tools for coppicing in both the short and extended answer questions.

Questions relating to the more conceptual and theoretical aspects were answered less well, with many candidates appearing to be unfamiliar with the NVC classification system, implications of tree failure and being able to explain how self-optimisation assists in preventing failure in trees. Other areas of weakness related to mulch, the benefits many of which were overstated, and to some of the technical factors of tree inspection methods.

### Extended answer question

The extended answer question was answered extensively by a small number of candidates, but many answers lacked sufficient breadth or depth to gain marks within the top band; some providing a reasonable amount of depth over a very limited subject matter whilst others covered a broad range of topics at a very superficial level. Most candidates linked their answers strongly to the scenario, but some strayed off the topic into other areas, which while relevant, were written about extensively to the detriment of other important factors. Many used some technical terminology, and a number of candidates presented excellent examples and detailed technical specifications of sophisticated analytical equipment. However, some provided a list of unsubstantiated facts which were also often incomplete, rather than a considered, structured response covering the main factors that was required. Legislation and safe working practices featured strongly in several of the ERQ responses, additionally there was a good understanding of practical factors and options in many papers. It was encouraging, however, to see that a large number of candidates had planned their responses, using bullet points / mind maps or similar approaches.

Advice on improving exam technique for centres to consider include:

- ensuring that candidates are familiar with the command word of the question and its subsequent requirement, with a number of detailed responses recorded for simple “state” or “identify” questions.
- the importance of reading and understanding the question accurately, this was seen in the incidence of answers from Q10 which clearly had not read or understood the term “implications” fully.

Centres should be familiar with the range of sample and past papers, and the exam guide, available to support exam readiness. These are available on our website here [Technicals in Horticulture and Forestry & Arboriculture qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications) under the ‘Assessment Materials’ tab.