

0175-501 – Level 3 Floristry – Theory exam (1)

Spring 2026

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 2026** 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:
0175-501 – Level 3 Floristry – Theory exam (1).

Theory Exam – Spring 2026

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0175-501**

Series: **Spring 2026**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	22
Merit mark	30
Distinction mark	39

The approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment, along with the grade boundaries for the series, are available as a single easy-to-view resource on the Technicals Resources pages of our website [Resource Hub - Technical Qualifications | City & Guilds](#) under the 'Post-results services' tab.

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0175-501

Series 1 (Spring)

The cohort for this examination has grown once again with a stable mean indicating that overall candidates performed similarly to this time last year. AO1 recall questions were well answered but better care is still needed with AO2. Where a question asks for a description or explanation, candidates should endeavour to provide this, lists or statements will not gain marks.

Candidates continue to require further support with **Unit 304 Plant and flower care**. Plant identification at the start of the paper and further questions asking for key care requirements for a specific botanical material were overall answered poorly. As was a question on the botanical process of diffusion. It was noted that candidates tend to perform better with more open-ended questions as this allows them to utilise broad conceptual understanding rather than precise technical details. This was certainly the case when a process or botanical material was named in the stem of the question, requiring specific breadth and depth of knowledge which some candidates struggled to provide.

As mentioned last March, future candidates need support in focusing on the use of command verbs to demonstrate their understanding. Where a response requires a description or explanation, that must be provided to gain marks. Candidates should also be encouraged to read their answers back to ensure that they are not simply repeating what they have already written, albeit in a slightly different way.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

Candidates were able to write a lot for this question showing good understanding of everyday floristry practices. There were instances of repeated ideas and justifications so candidates would benefit from extra support in how to structure longer responses. The breadth of understanding was good compared to previous years but there was a lack of depth with many not commenting on all parts of the question. Some responses included SWOT analysis or financial forecasts which did elicit some marks but did not fully link back to the scenario. Candidates should be reminded that the ERQ is marked against marking bands based on breadth, depth and quality of responses, as opposed to more 'points based' marking in other questions.