

Changes to the 0344-40 Level 4 Higher Diploma in Floristry and 0344-50 Level 5 Master Diploma in Floristry assessments

We will be making two improvements to the assessment for the above qualifications from September 2015. The Handbooks and Assignment Guides will be amended accordingly.

The changes will be

1. the removal of unit 010 from the practical exams as a distinct question
2. to cap the grade that can be achieved through resubmitted assignments to a Pass.

Removal of unit 010 from the practical exams as a distinct question

The practical exams are intended to test the candidates' creative skills through the construction of floral designs in a controlled environment. The design concepts covered in unit 010 underpin the creation of all designs and as such are already an integral part of the practical exam work for units 006 to 009. Therefore, including a separate question for unit 010 in these exams is over assessment. In addition there is increasing potential for the current question format to allow candidates to achieve a higher grade than the skill level shown in their created pieces and this conflicts with the purpose of the exam.

It is for these reasons that we have decided to remove unit 010 as a distinct question in both the level 4 and level 5 practical exams. These units will continue to be assessed in the assignments and as an integrated part of the unit 006-009 practical exam work. This change will help keep the assessment for these awards valid, efficient and reliable for the future.

The time allowance for the exams will remain unchanged as there is no reduction in the planning and design work required.

Capping the grade that can be achieved through a resubmitted assignment to a Pass.

We will be bringing these Diplomas in line with other City & Guilds qualifications with regards to candidates having two or more attempts at assignment work. The Assignment Guides currently give no guidance on resubmitting work which means that, in theory, a candidate could keep reworking and submitting an assignment until they achieved their desired grade. While it is recognised that this has not been a particular issue to date it has been highlighted as a potential risk for the future, one which could render the assessments invalid and unreliable.

By specifying that resubmitted work can only achieve a grade of Pass we will be making the qualification fair to all candidates regardless of where they are studying and this clarification will also support centre staff.

These are professional qualifications and as such it is expected that learners take this approach in their learning and assessment. Capping resubmitted assignments to a Pass grade will help maintain the professional image of the qualifications within the industry.

This change will not replace other policies for fair assessment, such as access arrangements and reasonable adjustments.