

0174-523 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture

March 2020

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 2020** 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;

0174-523 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture - Theory exam

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

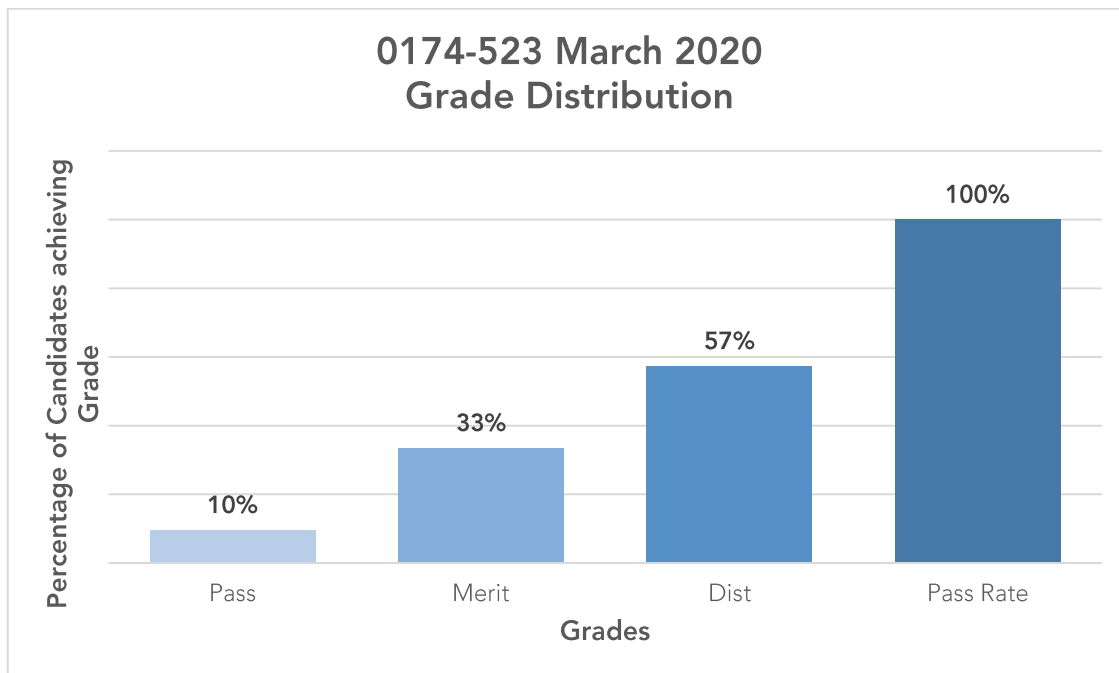
Assessment: **0174-523**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	
Pass mark	17
Merit mark	23
Distinction mark	29

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: 0174-523

Series 1 (March)

Candidates' overall performance in the March 2020 paper improved, with a higher number of candidates gaining a distinction. The paper was well structured and written at the appropriate level and tested a range of abilities. Candidates demonstrated good breadth and depth in knowledge and understanding.

Candidates demonstrated the strongest performance in the topics related to working in the industry, effects of pollution, management and control of wildlife, vertebrate pest species and control, influences on plant growth and nursery stock specification. There was also a much better performance than in the previous series on the subject of tree protection.

Topics related to **Unit 205 Understand Plant Physiology** showed some limited knowledge and understanding. Only a limited number of candidates were able to understand the main function of a leaf and the function of Xylem and Phloem.

Questions requiring candidates to apply knowledge and understanding to practice in an integrated way provided a positive differentiation between the low and high performing candidates, as expected for these types of questions. Some candidates did not gain marks due to not reading the questions carefully. Centres are encouraged to further support candidates develop the exam technique.

Centres are reminded of the City and Guilds Technicals 'exam Guides' available here

https://www.cityandguilds.com/-/media/productdocuments/land_based_services/animal_management/0172/0172_level_2/animal_care/assessment_materials/0172-021_technicals_exam_document_2018_v1-pdf.ashx

Candidates' high performance in this series demonstrates consistency in strength of delivery across the centres that deliver this qualification. Centres' increasing familiarity with the 'Technical' model of qualification combined with balanced and well-structured written and edited questions has led to an excellent performance in Spring 2020.