

0174-21 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture

2024

Qualification Report

Contents

Introduction	3
Qualification Grade Distribution.....	4
Theory Exam.....	5
Grade Boundaries.....	5
Grade Boundaries table	7
Chief Examiner Commentary.....	8
Synoptic Assignment.....	9
Grade Boundaries.....	9
Principal Moderator Commentary.....	10

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

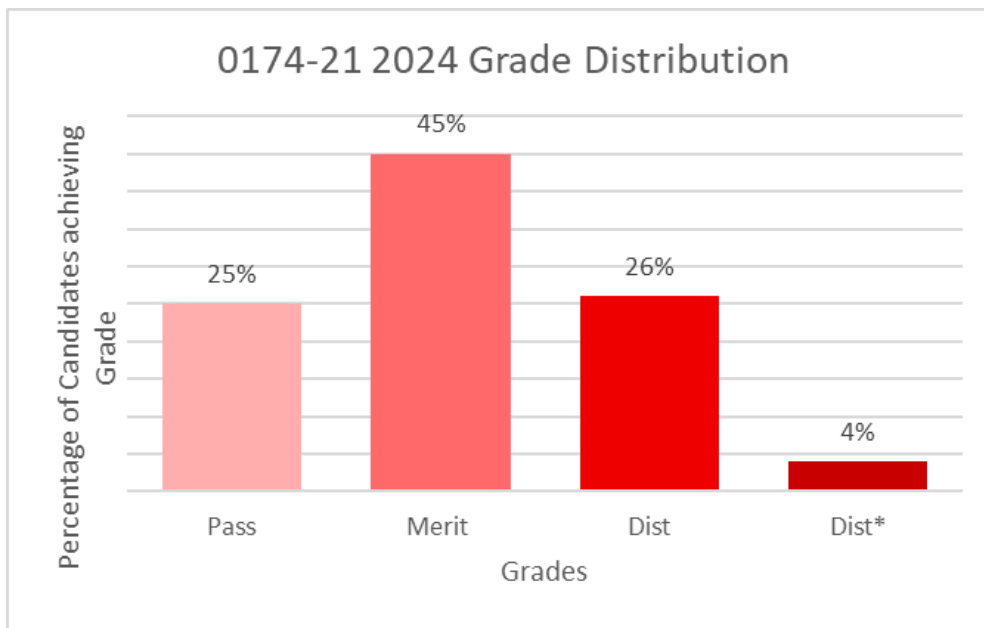
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2024 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 0174-523/023 Level 2 Forestry and Arboriculture – Theory exam
 - March 2024 (Spring)
 - June 2024 (Summer)
- 0174-022 Level 2 Forestry and Arboriculture – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.

Theory Exam

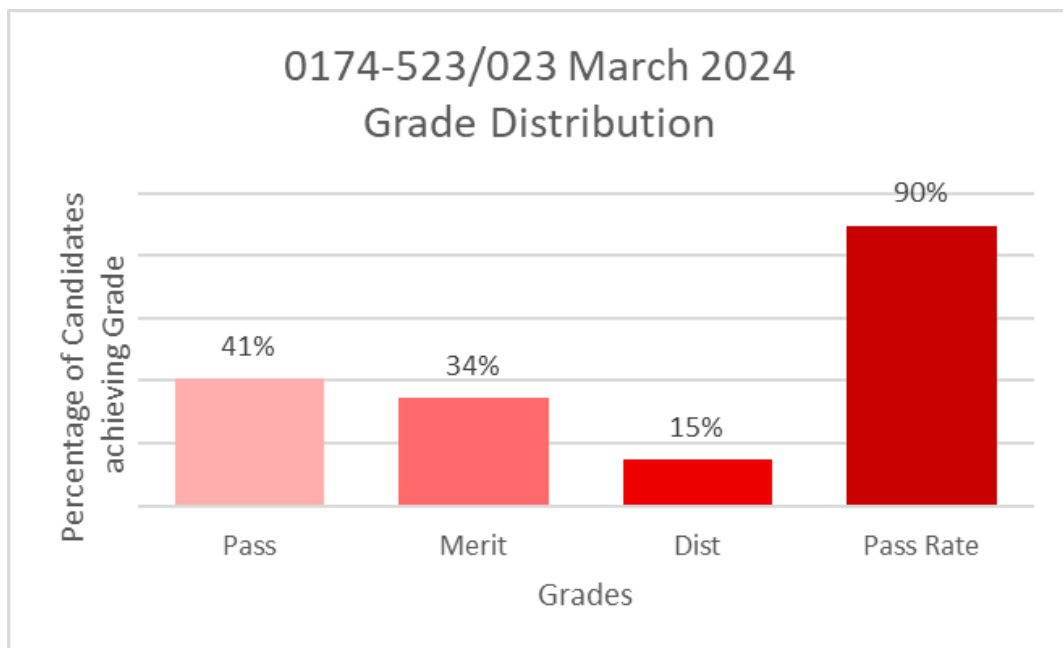
Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 0174-523/023
Series: March 2024 (Spring)

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

Total marks available	40
Pass mark	17
Merit mark	23
Distinction mark	29

The graph below shows the approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:



General Comments on Candidate Performance

0174-523/023 Level 2 Forestry and Arboriculture - Theory exam

Series 1 (March 2024)

The achievement rate this series was broadly comparable to that seen last year, with a slight decrease of students achieving a Distinction. Similarly to March 2023, candidates tended to struggle more in questions focussing on forestry rather than arboriculture.

Although knowledge and understanding was shown across the curriculum poorer performance was noted in questions relating to and Unit 206 Tree Establishment and, to a lesser degree, Unit 205 Introduction to Plant Science. This was noted in particular relating to plant physiology and nursery stock. Questions relating to these Units also showed the widest differentiation between the low and high performing candidates. As is the case every year, candidates performed less well across all units where the focus of questions related more to forestry than arboriculture.

Questions requiring candidates to apply knowledge and understanding in an integrated way provided some positive differentiation between the low and high performing candidates, as would be expected for these types of questions.

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

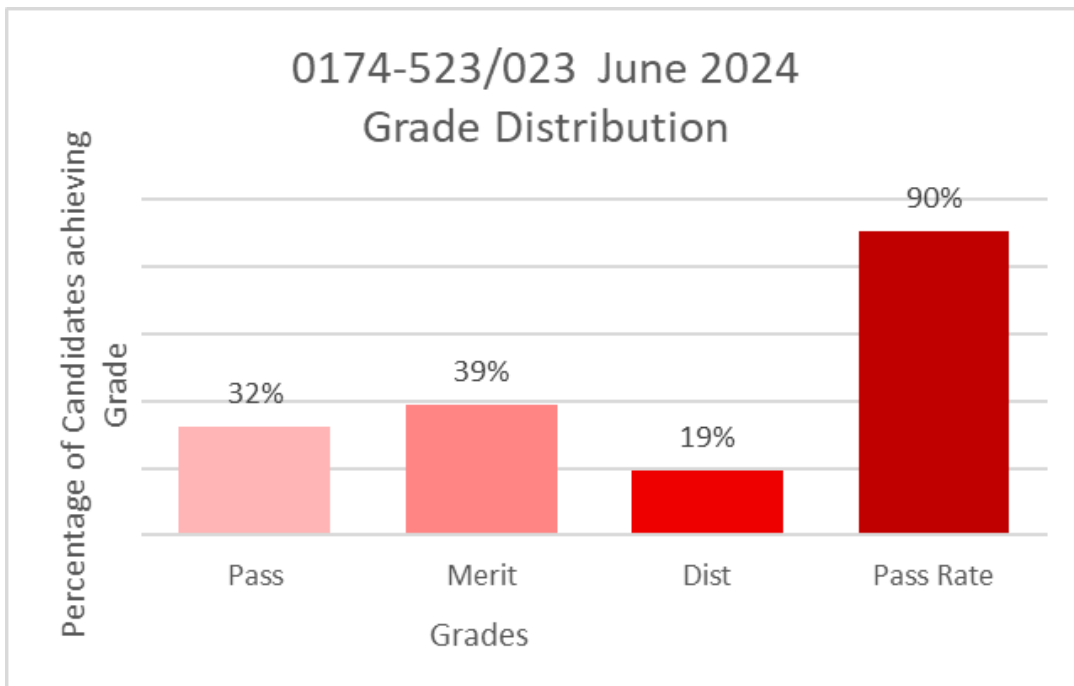
Grade Boundaries table

Assessment: 0174-523/023
Series: June 2024 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment.

Total marks available	40
Pass mark	16
Merit mark	22
Distinction mark	28

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:



Chief Examiner Commentary

0174-523/023 Level 2 Forestry and Arboriculture - Theory exam

Series 2 (June 2024)

The paper was comparable to March 24, with the scenario type questions being a mix of arboriculture and forestry themed questions and a range of true/ false and pick the correct three from four type questions featuring in both papers. The paper was also comparable in difficulty and the requirement for candidates to demonstrate a range of knowledge and understanding from across the depth and breadth of the qualification. This was evidenced in the similarity in pass rates across the two series.

Although knowledge and understanding were generally shown across the content, candidates did show a weakness in areas such as Environment and conservation, with lower scoring questions relating to European Protected Species and ways to limit environmental pollution. Candidates generally performed better in science based- questions, which is an improvement from previous series, with questions relating to basic soil types, free draining soils, soil improvements, pH and its influence on plant growth, the process of photosynthesis and the function of roots.

The paper had three scenario style questions, that did see variances and differentiation between high and low scoring candidates. These questions required candidates to apply knowledge and understanding in an integrated way provided some positive differentiation between the low and high performing candidates, as would be expected for these types of questions.

Centres should:

- Support candidates in developing exam technique.
- Concentrate on practicing the scenario style questions and the requirement to break the scenario/ questions down and pick the most appropriate response.
- Revise through formative assessments the full depth and breadth of the qualification to ensure candidate preparedness.

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

Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

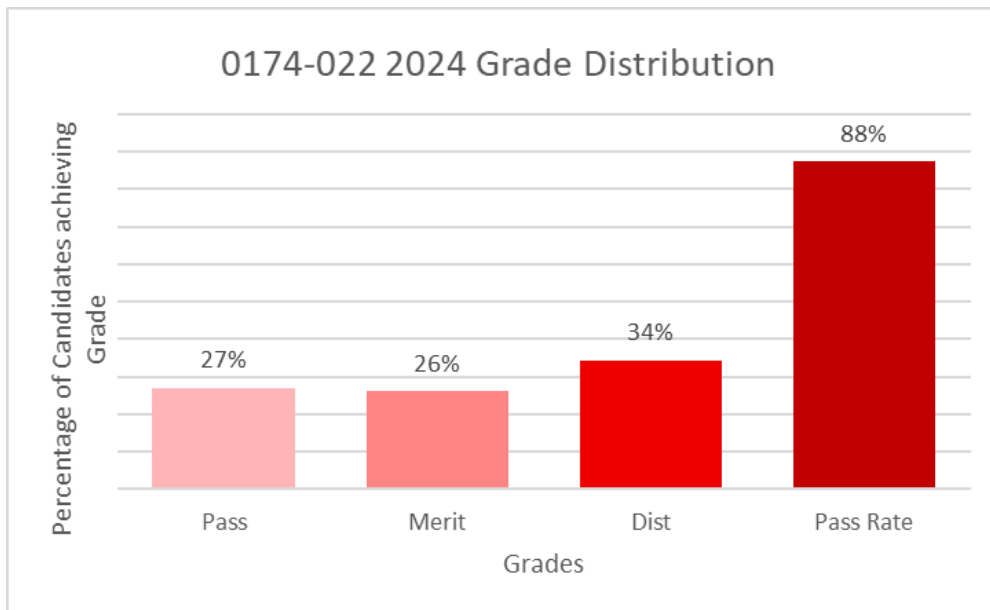
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel:

Assessment: 0174-022

Series: June 2024

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	40

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



Principal Moderator Commentary

Comments on centre administration

Moderators for the qualification have all confirmed that the administration for all Centres was generally good. Two of whom had reported additional requests had been made for missing documents, or for the evidence to be re-uploaded due to the lack of quality with scanned evidence making it hard to decipher.

This was particularly noted with evidence for practical tasks. As with 2023 there were examples of the standard of marking not being consistent. Whilst some was considered to be exemplary, the lack of attention to detail was again of concern. AOs and POFs lacked detail on the assessment observed, as well as Centre Name, Number, Date and names of both assessor and learner.

Centre markers should also write the feedback in the Third Person, due to the feedback not being read by the learner. In a lot of examples, the feedback was written in the Second Person. Centres are advised to check for the quality and accuracy of the uploaded evidence, as well as ensuring that all required documentation is present. The majority of centre documents and candidate evidence however was uploaded to the portal by the deadline.

Overall performance of candidates compared to expectations

The performance of learners overall was generally good, with evidence from each candidate -in the majority of cases- meeting appropriate expectations across the range of ability.

The quality of practical work demonstrated a higher understanding and ability than those based on theoretical tasks, which was to be expected. Learners in a higher banding demonstrated causal links between theory and practice.

Provision of evidence for moderation

Some POFs contained comments and references which were not aligned to the relevant banding, this made moderation of forms difficult.

Photographic evidence used to support the candidates work was not always fully annotated. To avoid this type of evidence being little more than a collection of photographs and therefore being disregarded, a brief commentary must be provided for each photo confirming the activity and learners work, along with how it relates to each assessment or learning outcome.

The continued issue of Markers using CRFs rather than Practical Observation Forms, and awarding marks on the POF, which were then averaged-out is a concern. This approach could put learners at a disadvantage due to marks subsequently being adjusted.

General overview of assessor alignment

Alignment between the marker and moderator was within tolerance in most cases with the exception of AO3 which was, in some cases, marked down within the CRF.

Performance against Assessment Outcomes (AOs)

AO1 Recall of knowledge related to the qualification LOs

Accurately marked, with a good level of knowledge evident across the written tasks. Evidence was mostly detailed, which was followed through to the practical activities with the most learners. This demonstrating a sound ability to apply practical skills. Comments on the PO Forms were mostly accurate.

AO2 Understanding of concepts theories and processes relating to the LOs

Assessing the learners ability to apply concepts and theories was embedded in Task 1, enabling learners to provide causal links between theoretical knowledge and understanding. The justification of choices made, and the consideration of relevant alternatives was poor with lower banded learners, however they were able to make straightforward links and provide some basic explanations and justifications. Learners at the upper-end of the marking band demonstrated a more in-depth knowledge and understanding, consolidation and ability to apply theory to practice.

AO3 Application of practical/technical skills

The learner's practical ability and performance was commented on in detail in most cases, confirming competence in a range of technical skills across the breadth of the qualification. Marked correctly in the most of cases, the AO included accurate marker comments on the CRF which aligned with information in the Practical Observation Forms. The majority of candidates demonstrated natural practical abilities, however some exceptions to this were noted.

However, some comments were noted within Band 3 learners, relating to the lack of industry speed. While this is to be expected, as in previous years' feedback, it is strongly recommended that more time is allocated to practical skills where possible.

Photographic evidence to support the markers commentary assists with the moderation process, only when accompanied by adequate annotation, captions or direct links within the markers notes to outline what each of the photographs are showing, and how that provides evidence for the associated outcomes.

Without any effective commentary moderators will not be able to assess the value of the photos against the outcomes being assessed. In future assessments, Centres are required to address this issue if providing photographs as supporting evidence of a learners performance against the outcomes.

AO4 Bringing it all together- coherence of the whole subject

Learners had provided evidence demonstrating a range of abilities in the understanding of knowledge and skills from across the breadth of the qualification. Feedback from the markers demonstrated sound causal links and connections from a range of tasks, this enabled the marks awarded to be accurate in the majority of cases.

AO5 Attending to detail/perfecting

All Moderators noted that learners at a higher level and ability were able to continually review their work and make any adjustments during practical activities. The AO being marked correctly in most cases. Attention to detail was generally noted within Tasks 1 and 2. Comments were made by Markers on POFs referring to the quality of finish and necessary adjustments made to working techniques in response to changing conditions or unforeseen problems.