



# 0174-523 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture

March 2025

## Chief Examiner Report

## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – March 2025.....	4
Grade Boundaries.....	4
Chief Examiner Commentary .....	5

## 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 2025** 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 2025

### Grade Boundaries and distribution

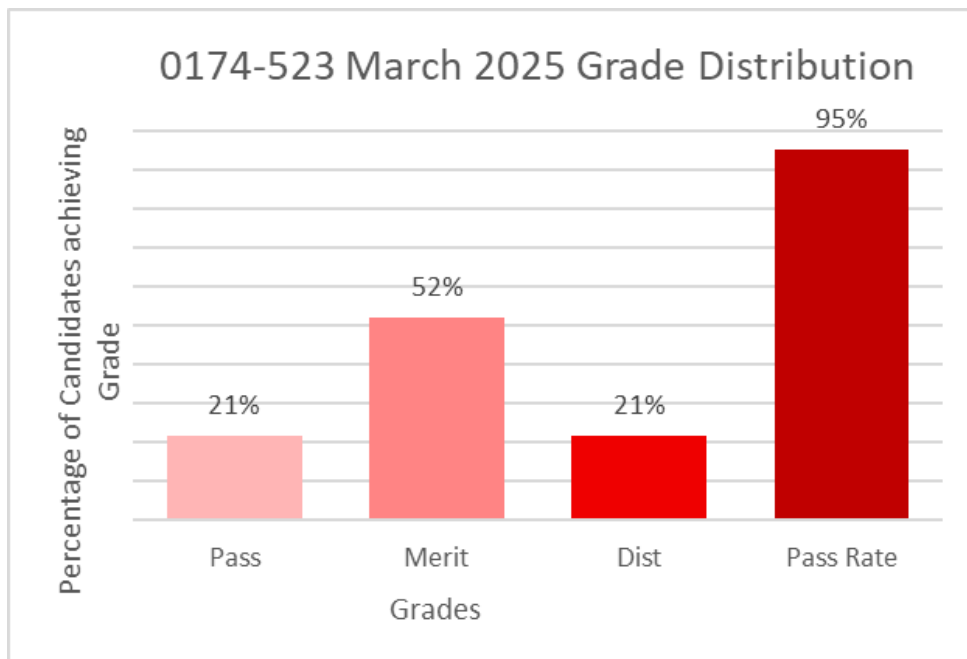
Assessment: **0174-523**

Series: **March 2025**

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	
Pass mark	18
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 2025)

Areas of weakness in the March 25 paper were identified to be in specific areas. Questions on the resilience of tree stock, control measures for common fungi species and bacterial species were answered less well by most candidates. Areas within tree establishment on aftercare, nursery stock specifications and some aspects of planting proved more difficult for some candidates. There were also some weaknesses in knowledge of certain sectors of the industry, cover letter formats and in specific knowledge of tree and shrub species. The item analysis also showed that the breadth of response from candidates was greater in the scenario-based A04 questions indicating less certainty in their knowledge.

Areas of strength were encouragingly found in each unit and included knowledge of tree protection legislation, basic principles of science, some aspects of weed and pest control, and some detailed knowledge of job roles.

In terms of future improvements, the use of practice papers, glossaries for scientific terms, case studies in methods of maintaining resilient tree stocks and control of pests and diseases would all be beneficial to the candidates.

Centres are encouraged to support to candidates in developing exam technique.

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/horticulture/0174-technical-in-horticulture-and-forestry-arboriculture#tab=document>