

0174-20

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Horticulture

2019

Qualification Report

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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.

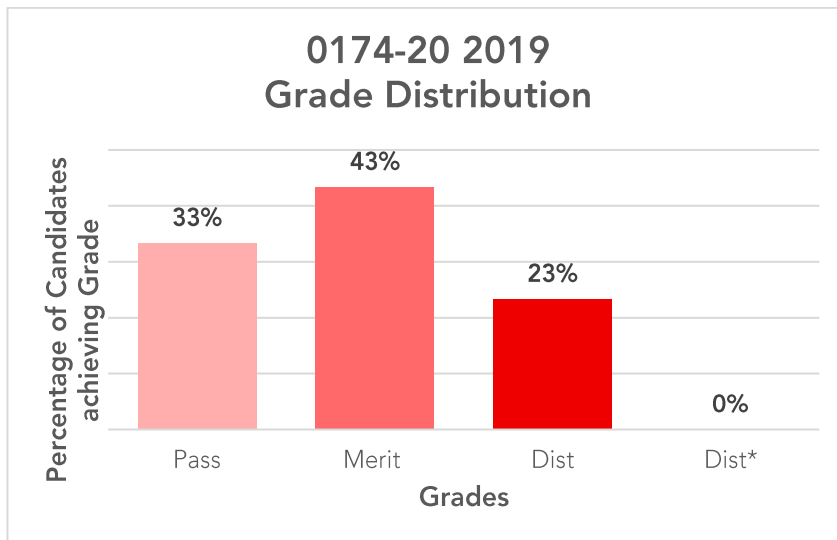
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2019 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 0174-521 Level 2 Horticulture – Theory exam
 - March 2019 (Spring)
 - June 2019 (Summer)
- 0174-020 Level 2 Horticulture – 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

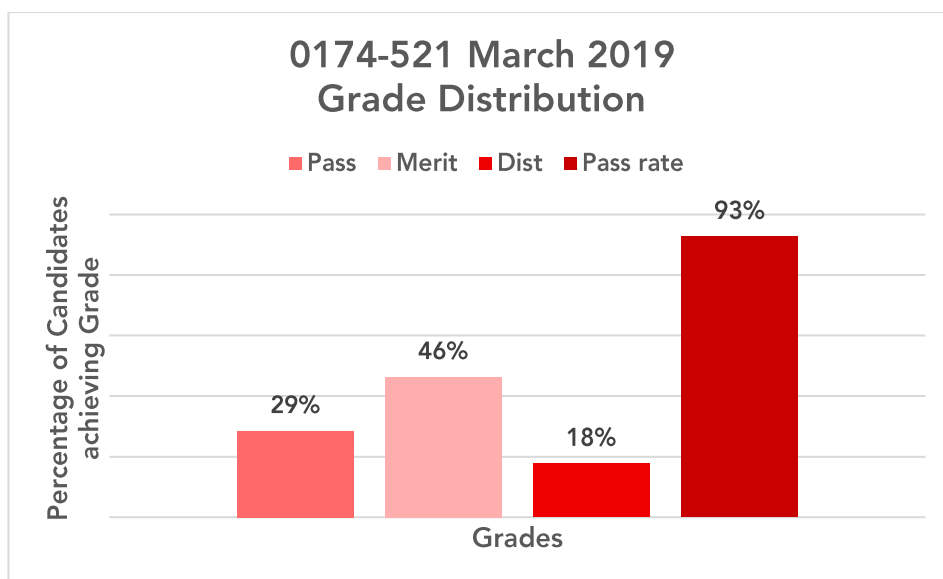
Assessment: 0174-521

Series: March 2019 (Spring)

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

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:

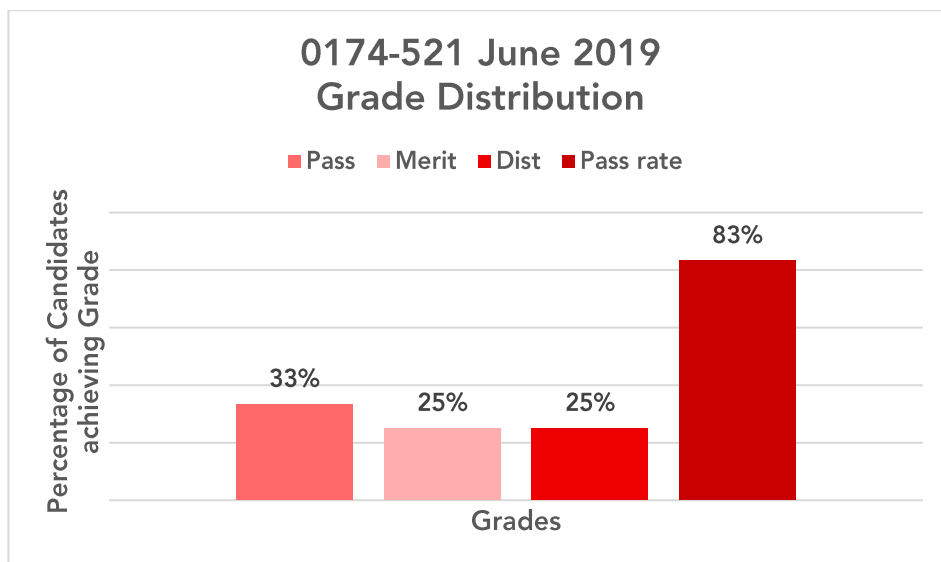


Assessment: 0174-521
Series: June 2019 (Summer)

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

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:



Chief Examiner Commentary

0174-521 Level 2 Horticulture- Theory exam

Series 1 – March 2019

The paper was well balanced and consistent with the test specification. It featured a mixture of AO1 recall, AO2 understanding and AO4 applied knowledge questions. The terminology and technical content assessed in the question paper was to the correct level 2 standard.

The following units were covered in this assessment:

- Unit 202: Working in the horticulture industry
- Unit 203: Plant naming, identification, selection and science
- Unit 204: Preparation, planting and maintenance of plants
- Unit 206: Horticultural business practices

Most candidates performed well in the exam and showed a good knowledge from across the qualification.

The strongest performing unit was:

- Unit 203: Plant naming, identification, selection and science

The weakest performing unit was:

- Unit 204: Preparation, planting and maintenance of plants

Some candidates missed marks on questions where careful reading was required of all available options.

The AO4 applied knowledge questions covered a range of content from across all the four units above. Candidates were required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding from a range of topics in an integrated approach when attempting these questions.

The paper was more robust than previous series and sets the standard for the assessment.

Series 2 – June 2019

The paper was well balanced and consistent with the test specification. It featured a mixture of AO1 recall, AO2 understanding and AO4 applied knowledge questions. The terminology and technical content assessed in the question paper was to the correct level 2 standard.

Following question analysis it was concluded that one question had 2 correct answers. For this reason, candidates were awarded an additional mark if they selected the second correct answer. The assessment paper uploaded on the website have been amended so that it can be used for practice and revision.

The following units were covered in this assessment:

- Unit 202: Working in the horticulture industry
- Unit 203: Plant naming, identification, selection and science
- Unit 204: Preparation, planting and maintenance of plants
- Unit 206: Horticultural business practices

Most candidates performed well in the exam and showed a good knowledge from across the qualification.

The strongest performing unit was:

- Unit 203: Plant naming, identification, selection and science

The weakest performing unit was:

- Unit 204: Preparation, planting and maintenance of plants

Some candidates missed marks on questions where careful reading was required of all available options.

The AO4 applied knowledge questions covered a range of content from across all the four units above. Candidates were required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding from a range of topics in an integrated approach when attempting these questions.

Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

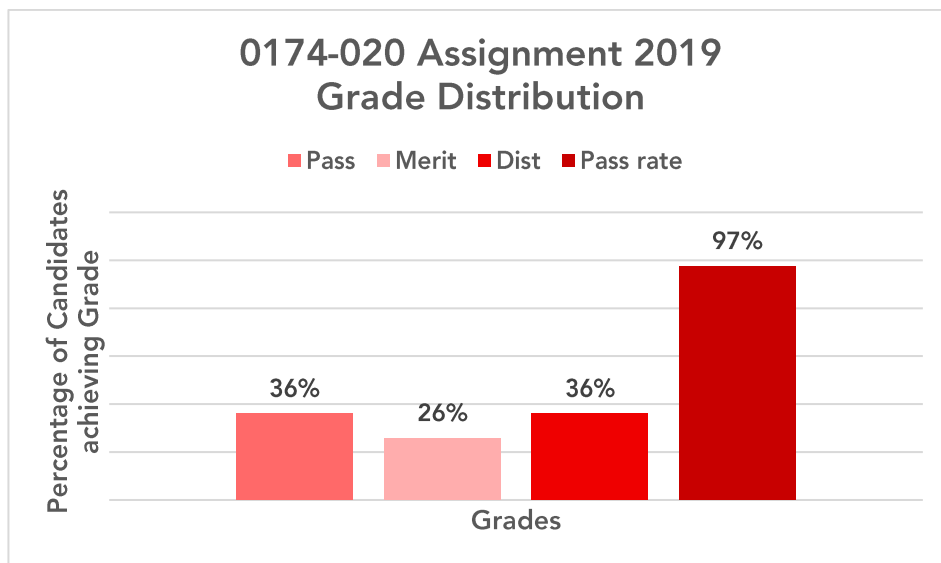
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel:

Assessment: 0174-020

Series: 2019

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	42

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



Principal Moderator Commentary

The best outcomes were produced where the candidates took full account of the context of the Assignment Brief in Task 1 (site preparation and plant selection). The context being of a community group and a community garden gave candidates the opportunity to demonstrate awareness of the site users in their plant selections, and it was evident in some of the Distinction-level reports that this was well considered. Where candidates only focused on the generic issues of the site, the marks in AO2 (and to a lesser extent AO4 and AO5) were appropriately lower.

Site preparation and cultivation was differentiated effectively by higher-achieving candidates; those at the lower end did not take into account the differences in preparation for lawns as compared with shrub borders.

Practical tasks were well organised and it was evident that guidance in the 2017-18 feedback had been taken into account in how the planting task had been organised this year.

Candidates appeared to carry out the tasks for machinery / turf maintenance, and planting, with a satisfactory level of competence in almost all cases, and the differentiation of marks was then shown due to the understanding of finer points (overlaps and turning in the mowing task; plant spacing and alignment etc. in the planting task) rather than in the basic function of each activity. It was also evident that the additional guidance given for this series about the use of 'why' questioning by the assessors gave an additional opportunity for the candidates to gain higher marks.

Assessment Objectives

AO1: Generally, an effective performance was noted across the candidates with knowledge recall at an expected level or better and appropriately noted in the CRFs. Reference to the PO forms was appropriate in how this Assessment Objective was judged.

AO2: Candidate understanding was judged effectively against the Plant selection and site preparation for Tasks 1 & 2 and there was effective differentiation of candidates evident in the judgements made. Task 1 was very well suited to effective differentiation of performance for AOs 2, 4 and 5.

AO3: Practical Observation forms were used effectively to show performance linked to this objective. Further guidance to centres would be valuable to minimise the variance of the site used for the task and thus increase the comparability of the mark and outcomes.

AO4: Again, this has been well referenced to the PO Forms but there was scope for better use of Tasks 1 & 2 to be used here.

AO5: Well referenced PO form.