

0174-521 Level 2 Horticulture– Theory Exam

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;
0174-521 Level 2 Horticulture– Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

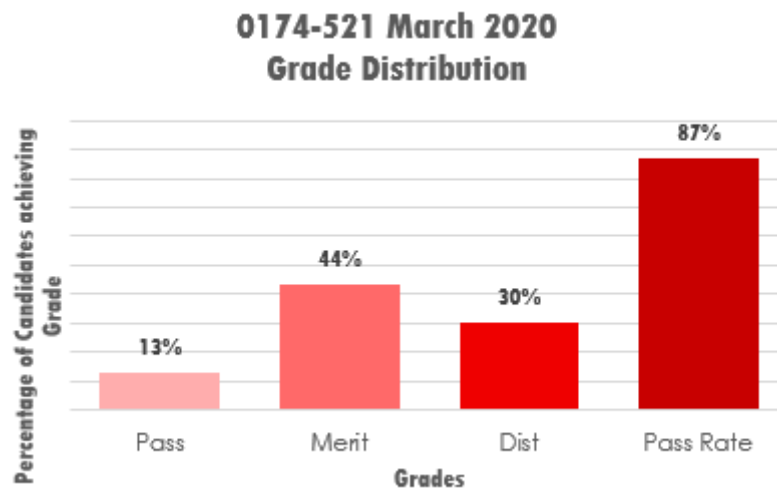
Assessment: **0174-521**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	40
Pass mark	16
Merit mark	21
Distinction mark	27

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: 0174-521

Series 1 (March)

The paper was considered to be broadly similar to papers in the past three examinations in terms of difficulty, though with a reduced use of questions containing illustrations, questions that were in table format and questions that contained comparative statements. The performance of candidates reflected a generally good standard for the AO1 questions and good standards by higher achieving candidates at the AO2 questions but the AO4 questions based around scenarios and reasoning were seen to be particularly taxing.

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

The strongest performing units were:

- Unit 203 Plant naming, identification, selection and science.
- Unit 202 Working in the horticulture industry.

Questions concerning the horticultural industry were answered well by most candidates, as were the recall questions on plant science. Questions containing illustrations were also answered correctly by most candidates. All questions which focused on healthy and safe working practices were dealt with well.

The weakest performing unit was:

- Unit 204 Preparation, planting and maintenance of plants.

A question based on the habit of plants was confused by most candidates with the shape of plants and this should be an area for focus in future delivery.

Several questions were concerned with soil science and soil management and these were not consistently answered; in particular the relative size of soil constituent particles was answered incorrectly by the majority of candidates.

The AO4 applied knowledge questions covered a range of content from across all four units. Amongst these AO4 questions, those on plant life cycle and growing media were poorly answered, including by the higher-performing candidates. For these questions, exam technique may be an important consideration as both the context and nature of the question need to be grasped before the correct answer can be achieved.

Centres are encouraged to focus on exam technique in the period before the examination, and in particular to ensure that candidates understand how to deal with structured questions and those which use comparative or true/false statements.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here

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