

# **0174-521/021 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Horticulture – Theory Exam**

**March 2024**

## **Examiner Report**

## Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner; 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 the 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 assessment:

- 0174-521/021 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Horticulture (Theory exam)
  - March 2024

# Theory Exam

## 0174-521/021 - Level 2 Technical Certificate in Horticulture (Theory exam)

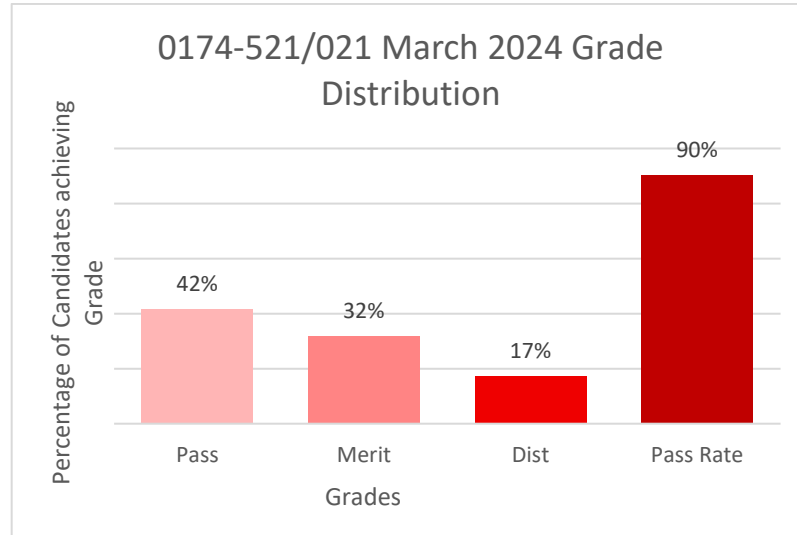
### Grade Boundaries

Assessment: **0172-521/021**  
Series: **March 2024 (Spring)**

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>40</b>
Pass mark	16
Merit mark	21
Distinction mark	27

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



# Chief Examiner Commentary

**Assessment component: 0174-521/021**

**Series 1 March 2024**

Candidates generally showed strong recall in key areas and often achieved marks in questions that required knowledge recall. However, lower-performing candidates had difficulty providing clear explanations and therefore struggled to demonstrate understanding in their responses. Many lost marks in questions that required detailed explanations or descriptions and instead often provided statements. Lower-performing candidates also exhibited poor exam technique, especially in questions requiring the application of knowledge to specific topics.

The performance of the paper clearly indicates that AO1 questions were answered by most candidates successfully, AO2 questions proving more difficult and AO4 scenario-based questions the most challenging, some even amongst the high achieving candidates.

The following commentary outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the cohort:

Candidates had demonstrated a depth of knowledge regarding:

- Unit 202 Working in the horticulture industry.
- Unit 204 Preparation, planting and maintenance of plants.

The cohort had demonstrated some gaps in knowledge with regards to:

- Unit 203 Plant naming, identification, selection and science
- Unit 206 Horticultural Business Practices.

Questions on botanical features, plant adaptation to site conditions and detailed awareness of plants by their scientific names were found to be more challenging. In the Business Practices unit awareness of some of the legal requirements also proved to be an area of weakness. Consideration should be given to greater focus on the plant, site and botanical aspects of the qualification, as these are fundamental skills and knowledge underpinning all horticulture.

An awareness of the importance of exam technique should also be considered in effectively preparing candidates. Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully.

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>