

0174-521 Level 2 Horticulture– Theory Exam

March 2025

Examiner Report

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Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Principal 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;

0174-521 Level 2 Horticulture– Theory Exam

Theory Exam – March 2025

Grade Boundaries and distribution

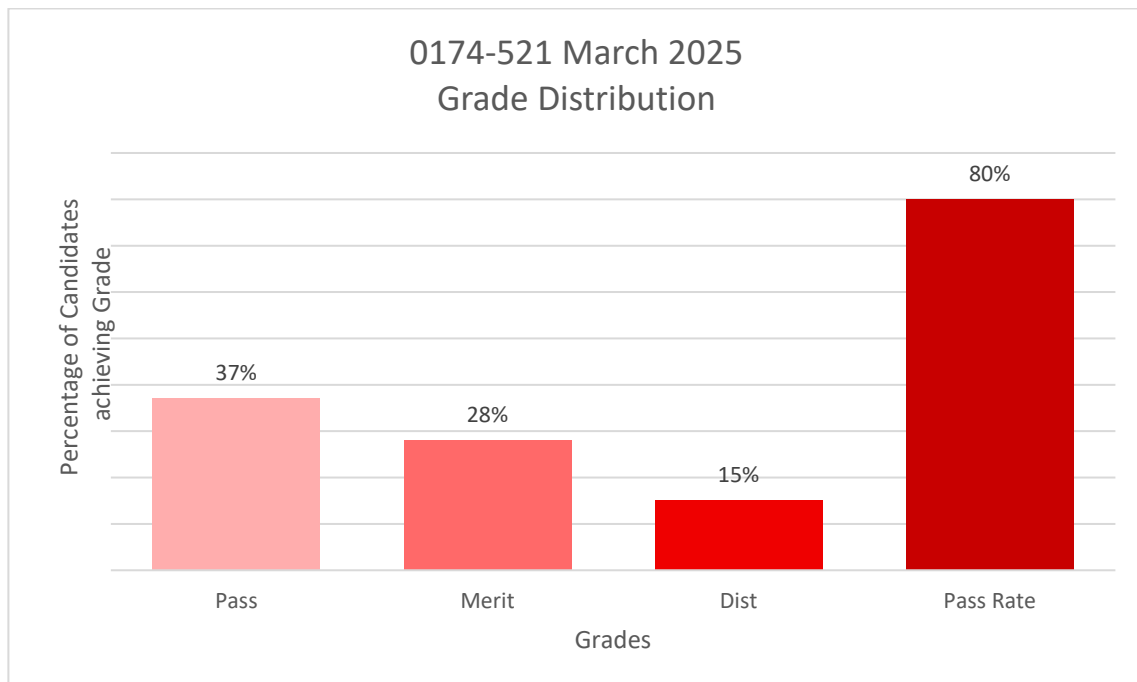
Assessment: **0174-521**

Series: **March 2025**

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:



Principal Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0174-521

Series 1 (March)

The performance of the March 2025 cohort showed similarities to last year, with candidates answering AO1 knowledge recall questions well, with strengths observed in practical and taxonomy-based areas. Soil science, details of types of nursery stock and aspects of the control of fungal diseases were areas where some of the candidates struggled. Overall candidates performed similarly in this series to past series.

Candidates demonstrated a depth of knowledge in the following topic areas: Unit 202, which covers working in the horticulture industry, and Unit 204, which focuses on the preparation, planting, and maintenance of plants.

Candidates demonstrated some gaps in knowledge in the following topic areas: Unit 203, which covers plant naming, identification, selection, and science, and Unit 206, which focuses on horticultural business practices.

The scenario-based questions were more of a challenge for candidates, as seen within previous series', though the sections on site-specific hazards and employee rights were still answered well. An area of weakness throughout was in specific plant knowledge and application, with some poor understanding of the functions of some plants evident.

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 Technical 'Exam Guides' available here:

[Horticulture qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds](#)