0174-014/514 - Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (1080)

March 2020

Examiner Report

Contents

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;
0174-014/514 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2020
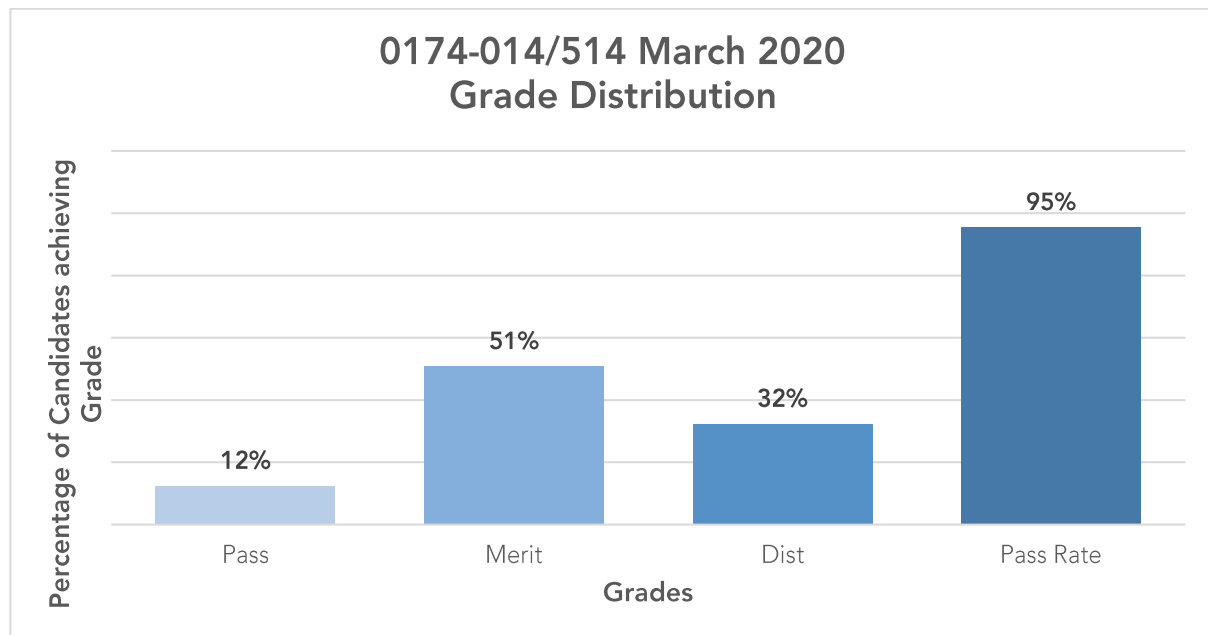
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0174-014/514**
Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	33
Distinction mark	43

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: 0174-014/514

Series 1 (March)

In general, candidates performed well in this series. Some candidates failed to understand some of the simple AO1 questions, as they did not read the question properly and therefore lost marks. AO2 questions were generally answered to a good standard, and candidates were able to expand on their answers.

The candidates' exam techniques was improved in this series in comparison to previous series.

The question paper had an appropriate balance of questions with varied levels of demand and it accurately sampled knowledge and understanding from across the qualification.

Most candidates attempted all questions. The range of answers varied considerably, i.e. there was a varying degree of accuracy and depth, with knowledge-based questions generally answered the best. Candidates frequently lost marks when not expanding their answers through discussion or explanation when asked to do so.

In this paper, the questions relating to Nursery stock, woodland management, influences on tree growth and pruning trees were answered well. Higher scoring candidates provided solid answers throughout the paper with few errors, and they structured answers well in all questions, and had a good use of technical terminology.

Candidates struggled with questions relating to species identification, tree supporting techniques and planting density. The vast majority of candidates struggled with questions where they were required to identify, with many providing incorrect names. Only a small number of candidates were able to give the full scientific name for a fastigiate beech.

Candidates were required to discuss the potential issues and management opportunities for a roadside avenue of mature lime trees, which had been heavily impacted by traffic.

Many candidates did not provide the depth of detail required of this type of question. Very few candidates achieved marks in the high band, as a sufficient discussion was not provided.

Some elements were occasionally well understood and had the candidates considered the topic in the wider context and used technical terminology, higher marks would have been awarded.

The extended response question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and to apply this knowledge and understanding in a particular context. The broader answers did this to some extent, although even some of them were reminiscent of a list of facts rather than a structured, thoughtful consideration with sufficient reasoned discussion or linking to the scenario.

Some candidates considered a wide range of factors of which included: species characteristics, health and safety to public, different management requirements and surveying methods. The majority of candidate's did not demonstrate a full understanding of lime tree characteristics. They were unable to fully explore management options and technical terminology.

Candidates will benefit from reading and fully understanding what the question is asking for before attempting to answer. Candidates should read the questions carefully, particularly the command verbs and the allocated marks, as this will give them an indication of the level of demand. For example, Q7 required candidates to list three pieces of equipment used to construct a rabbit-proof fence. The majority of candidates only stated materials and therefore lost marks.