

0174-012/512– Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (1080)

March 2022

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 2022** 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;
0174-012/512– Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture Theory Exam (1).

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

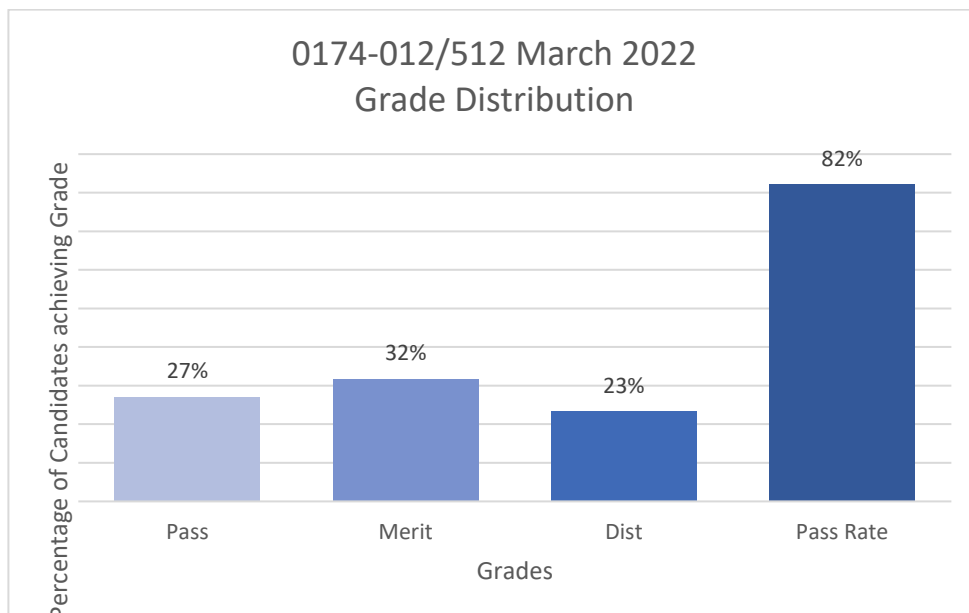
Assessment: **0174-012/512**

Series: **March 2022**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	42

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: 0174-012/512

Series 1 (March 2022)

Candidates showed a good range of knowledge across the exam and produced a wide range of responses within the units being assessed. Most questions were answered with some degree of accuracy and depth, but not in all areas.

The paper compared well to previous series in the spread of marks and the range of responses elicited from candidates. There was good coverage of the unit content addressing a wide range of topics.

Candidates have previously performed well on questions which are more practical in nature, however on this occasion, errors were seen on questions around parts of a chainsaw and felling methods. This is unusual and may demonstrate a misunderstanding of either terminology or the command verb within the question. Some marks were awarded in topics that have been weaker in previous years.

There was a lack of knowledge demonstrated regarding plant science which has been seen in previous exam series. A question on the topic of plasmolysis was overall not answered well which continued the theme of previous years where candidates have struggled with the more detailed areas of unit 307.

The higher marked candidates performed well in the Extended Response Question, many gained marks for demonstrating knowledge, however few demonstrated depth of knowledge focusing instead on causes or actions. Most candidates only focused on one aspect while a few candidates drew the information together.

Themes where most candidates did well:

- Almost all candidates identified three faults on a chainsaw
- Many candidates could name at least two pests affecting timber production.
- Most candidates scored quite well on a question focused on tomography
- Pests for trees (to some extent).

Themes where most candidates struggled:

- Very few candidates could explain plasmolysis.
- Some candidates confused parts of a chainsaw with 42% of candidates who sat the paper-based exam accessing full available marks for a question that topic.
- Candidates tended to describe the process rather than justify the method on a question around felling methods, with just 20% of candidates who sat the paper-based exam accessing the top two marks available for that question

Themes that discriminated between candidates:

- The stronger candidates performed well across all areas. They read the question and gave appropriate responses.
- The Extended Response Question discriminated well between the higher and lower marked candidates. At the lower end, there was little detail. 72% of the candidates who sat the paper-based exam accessed higher Band 1 or lower Band 2 marks. Many candidates' responses demonstrated a lack of breadth or depth which prevented them from accessing higher marks for this question. There was also some evidence of candidates focusing their response incorrectly. Some responses were very thorough with a good range of depth and breadth though, and therefore a small number of candidates were able to access higher Band 2 or lower Band 3 marks

Centres are advised to help candidates develop their use and understanding of technical terminology across the qualification.

Candidates are also strongly advised to practice examination techniques when preparing for this exam to fully understand the requirements of the question before attempting to answer, particularly those that require candidates to demonstrate reasoning. Explain type of questions require candidates to demonstrate reasons and justifications to support the statements or cause and effect.

Past papers and marking schemes are available on the City and Guilds website which should be used for exam practice.

City & Guilds also offers a technical exam guide to support the work on the exam technique.

All documents are available to download from [Technicals in Horticulture and Forestry & Arboriculture qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications)

Past papers and marking schemes: Documents – Level 3 – Assessment materials – Past Papers tabs

Exam guide: Documents – Level 3 – Assessment materials