

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

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

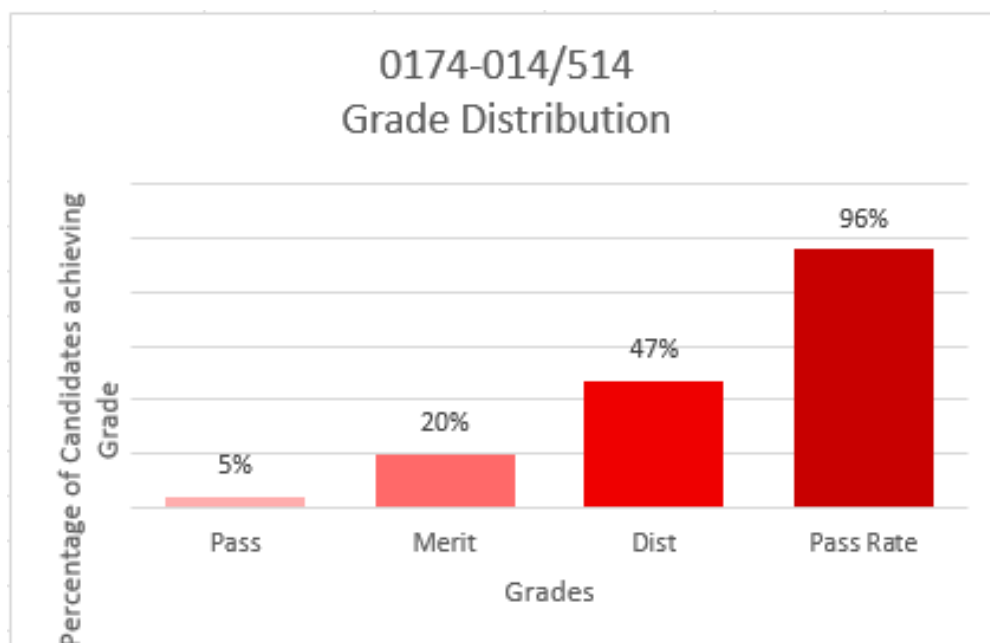
Assessment: **0174-014/514**

Series: **March 2022**

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 2022)

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

The majority of candidates made an attempt at all questions with greater success achieved in the knowledge – based questions (AO1) than those requiring explanations / descriptions (AO2), where some candidates failed to provide the level of detail required to demonstrate understanding.

Strengths and weaknesses

Although there was a good range of knowledge and understanding shown across the units being tested, areas of particular strength included principles of tree science, with good knowledge and understanding of response to environmental conditions, decay detection, wound response and structural assessment demonstrated in both the short and extended answer questions.

Questions relating to tree identification, planting and establishment were answered less well, with many candidates appearing to be unfamiliar with hydraulic spades, struggling to identify species and unclear regarding methods of tree support for different types of stock. Another area of slight weakness relates to the historic influences which have shaped woodland cover in the UK

Extended Response question

The Extended Response Question was answered very well by some candidates, but most provided insufficient breadth and depth to access marks within Band 3; some providing a reasonable amount of depth over a very limited subject matter, whilst others covered a broad range of topics at a very superficial level. Most candidates linked their answers strongly to the scenario and many used some technical terminology, but many provided what amounted more to a list of facts than a considered, structured response. As a result, majority of candidates, 64.5% of the candidates who sat the paper-based exam, accessed higher Band 1 or lower Band 2 marks. It was encouraging however to see that a large number of candidates did plan their responses, using bullet points / mind maps, although not all then proceeded to follow these plans when writing their responses.

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