

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

March 2024

Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – March 2024.....	4
Grade Boundaries.....	4
Chief Examiner Commentary	5

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 2024** 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;
0174-514 – Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

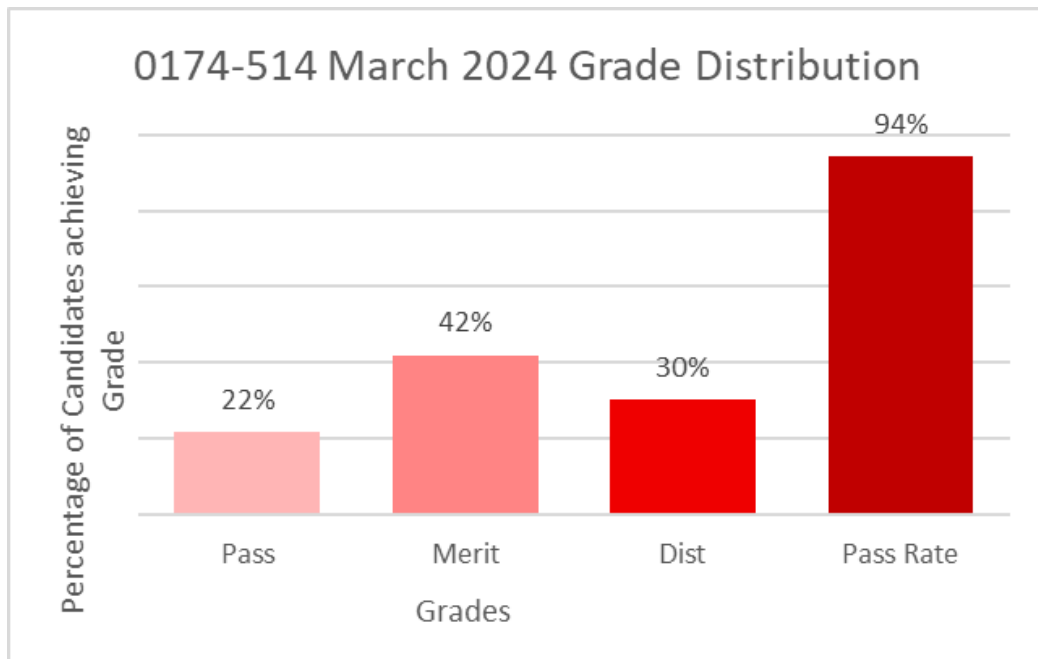
Assessment: **0174-514**

Series: **March 2024**

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

Total marks available	
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	44

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: 0174-514

Series 1 (March 2024)

The question paper had a fair balance of questions with varied levels of demand, and it accurately sampled the knowledge and understanding required from across the qualification. There was an increased number of questions asking for the straightforward naming of commonly used equipment in forestry and arboriculture in this paper than in previous recent versions, which is the rationale for the proposed increased pass mark for this series.

The majority of candidates made an attempt at most questions, with greater success achieved in the technical knowledge based questions or those linked to practical applications rather than those requiring more detailed explanations / descriptions.

Strengths and Weaknesses

There was a good range of knowledge and understanding shown across the units being tested in both recall and understanding questions. Areas of particular strength included fundamental knowledge of the application of items of practical equipment including sophisticated detection equipment, bareroot planting techniques and ancient woodland features. Evident weaknesses were observed in science topics, particularly in knowledge and understanding of straightforward botanical terms, and in the deeper understanding of some biological processes.

Extended Answer Question

The extended answer question was answered extensively by a small number of candidates but many answers lacked sufficient breadth or depth to gain marks within the top band. Some provided a reasonable amount of depth over a limited subject matter whilst others covered a broad range of topics at a superficial level. Most candidates interpreted the image to varying degrees of detail and linked their answers to the scenario. However, some strayed off the topic into areas of ecology, which while relevant, were written about extensively to the detriment of other more relevant or important factors. Many candidates used relevant technical terminology, and a number of candidates also presented strong examples and detailed technical specifications of items of analytical equipment however, others provided a list of basic statements, often incomplete rather than a considered, structured response covering the main factors. Legislation and safe working practices featured strongly in several of the ERQ responses with a good understanding of these important practical factors shown.

A number of candidates planned their responses, using bullet points/mind maps, although not all then proceeded to follow these plans when writing their responses.

Aspects of improving exam technique for centres to consider would include :

- Ensuring that candidates are familiar with what level of response is required based on the command word of the question, with a number of detailed responses recorded for simple “state” or “identify” questions.
- The importance of reading and understanding the question accurately would improve some of the misinterpretations found from some candidates.
- A reinforcement of basic botanical knowledge would appear to be required in some centres, and more detail on scientific principles.
- To assist learners in formulating an extended response question, an increased focus on understanding the aim of this type of question, how to structure and answer, and how to

develop an extended response answer to gain higher marks would be valuable at all centres.

Centres should be familiar with the range of sample and past papers, and the exam guide, available to support exam readiness. These are available on our website here [Technicals in Horticulture and Forestry & Arboriculture qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications) under the 'Assessment Materials' tab.