

0174-002/502 – Level 3 Horticulture - Theory exam (1)

March 2020

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 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;
0174-002/502 – Level 3 Horticulture - Theory exam (1).

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

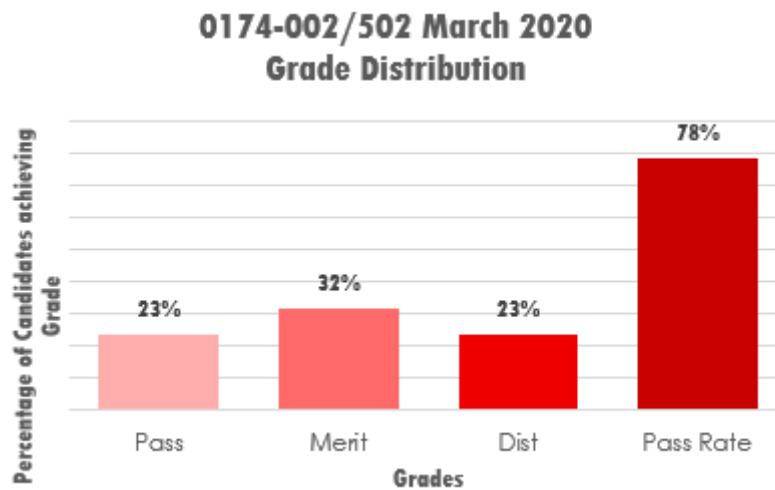
Assessment: **0174-002/502**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	45

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: 0174-002/502

Series 1 (March)

The question paper had an appropriate balance of questions with varied levels of demand and it accurately sampled the level of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth with knowledge-based questions generally answered the best whereas candidates frequently lost marks by not expanding their answers through discussion or explanation when required and struggled to provide accurate named examples.

The standard of the candidate's responses was as expected in line with the varied levels. Responses at distinction level were easily identified from the lower grades in having an excellent breadth and depth of knowledge backed up by relevant examples and development of ideas. This was particularly evident in the extended response question on the potential extremes of climate in the future, with candidates pulling information in from the whole curriculum and their own experiences to support their answers.

It is advisable that candidates take care when reading the questions, particularly command words, whether a named example was required, and distinctions between, for example, pests, diseases and disorders. The understanding of some technical botanical terms used especially in taxonomy was identified as a weakness in the mid and lower level candidates.

Overall, candidates showed **strength** in:

- Health and Safety elements generally, with most candidates understanding the concepts of risk assessments and the legal duties of employers.
- Pests and diseases.
- Soil properties generally.
- Pesticide storage.

Candidates appear to require further **support** in:

- Distinguishing between hazard and risk.
- Machinery: benefits and limitations of PTO.
- Maritime plants and their adaptation.
- Difference between bi-generic and inter-specific.
- Specific soil science terminology.

The extended answer question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of horticulture in general. There were some excellent extended answers given by the higher-level candidates who structured their answers to cover a full range of considerations for planning and undertaking annual plant maintenance and provided well-considered examples as well as linking back to the scenario and location. Timeframe and timings were also considered well by the higher-level candidates. Lower-level candidates restricted their answers to consider just three or four topics and in some cases misinterpreted the concept of the question. The examples provided were not necessarily realistic and some of the maintenance tasks were inaccurately described. Some candidates left the last question too late to provide an adequate answer and therefore were unable to access the full range of marks.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/horticulture/0174-technical-in-horticulture-and-forestry-arboriculture#tab=documents>

Candidates are strongly advised to be familiar with the command verbs they may encounter during examinations and to be prepared for the different types of structures of questions, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.