

0174-008/508 Level 3 Horticulture- Theory exam (2)

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;
0174-008/508 Level 3 Horticulture - Theory exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

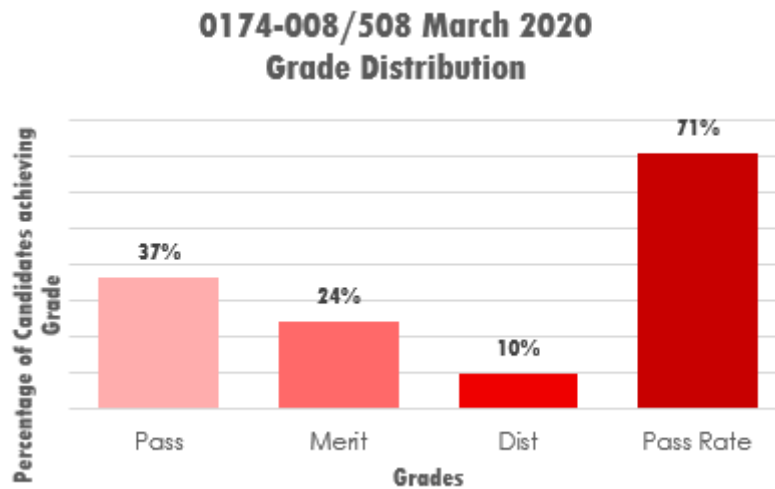
Assessment: **0174-008/508**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	41

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: 0174-008/508

Series 1 (March)

The exam provided candidates of all abilities the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge on a range of topics. Virtually all candidates attempted all questions. Lower level candidates frequently did well on the knowledge-based practical questions on hard-landscaping but often failed to expand their understanding in more challenging questions. Some aspects of business are less well understood and whilst most candidates attempted these questions they frequently gave confused responses. Candidates should also always pay attention to the number of marks available and the command words used in order to answer the question fully.

Questions on practical horticulture including damaging trees on building sites, tree pruning and hard-landscaping saw some of the strongest and thoughtful responses although the concept of waste often saw several answers that were too similar to attract higher marks. Topics such as trends and developments should have enabled candidates from every sector of the industry to gain good marks but frequently very general statements were provided offering little insight into the changes seen in the industry. All sectors of the industry have seen significant developments in mechanisation and IT whilst trends to reduce waste and environmental impacts should be well understood.

Many candidates had a good understanding of marketing strategies and knew the differences between employees and subcontractors. Some topics that were less well understood are financial terms specifically credit control proved challenging for the majority of candidates. Data protection which has been widely publicised recently was mostly understood but marks were lost through lack of detail.

The extended response question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of horticulture in general and as such requires candidates to provide a detailed discussion of a range of factors. Performance in this question frequently mirrors the performance throughout the exam with the strongest candidates often achieving full marks. The question covered all three units and so offered ample opportunity to develop answers. The strongest candidates had clearly planned their responses to ensure that they had discussed sufficient factors to achieve high marks. Poorer answers generally developed a limited range of factors such as physical resources, some of which had little relevance to the project.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds '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.