

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

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

# Theory Exam – March 2022

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

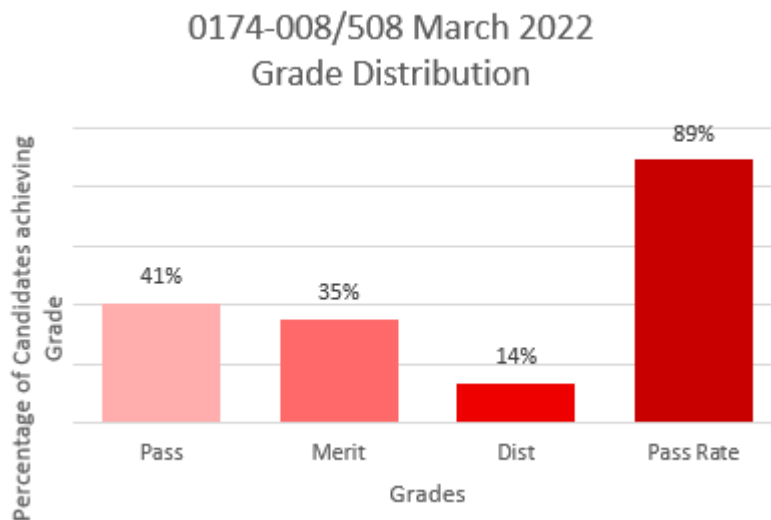
Assessment: **0174-008/508**

Series: **March 2022**

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

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Total marks available</b> | <b>60</b> |
| Pass mark                    | 25        |
| Merit mark                   | 33        |
| 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: 0174-008/508

### Series 1 (March)

The exam offered candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding across the breadth of topics applicable. Most candidates attempted all questions, and as could be anticipated lower-achieving candidates gained marks mainly in recall questions and those based on practical subjects. Some lower-achieving candidates tended to struggle to effectively differentiate responses for recall questions, which reduced the marks gained. Higher-achieving candidates were able to expand answers to include explanation and justification when this was appropriate, notably in the extended response question.

Overall, candidates showed **strength** in:

- Social benefits of green spaces
- Sources of waste in hard-landscape projects
- Contingency factors when quoting for hard-landscape projects
- Differences between employees and sub-contractors

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

- Botanical understanding and terminology
- Depreciation, as applied to accounting
- The legal term 'right of easement'
- Application of understanding about quality management systems

The extended response question allowed candidates to apply their knowledge and understanding across an area of their own choice, whilst applying that understanding to a particular situation. Higher achieving candidates did so effectively, covering both the development of a customer base and the employment of staff, and usually linking these appropriately to the context that they had set. Legal matters were also given detailed consideration. Those achieving lower marks tended to focus on only one of the requirements, and failed to consider legal considerations around employment, health and safety and trading practices.

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.