

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

March 2023

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 2023** 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 2023

Grade Boundaries and distribution

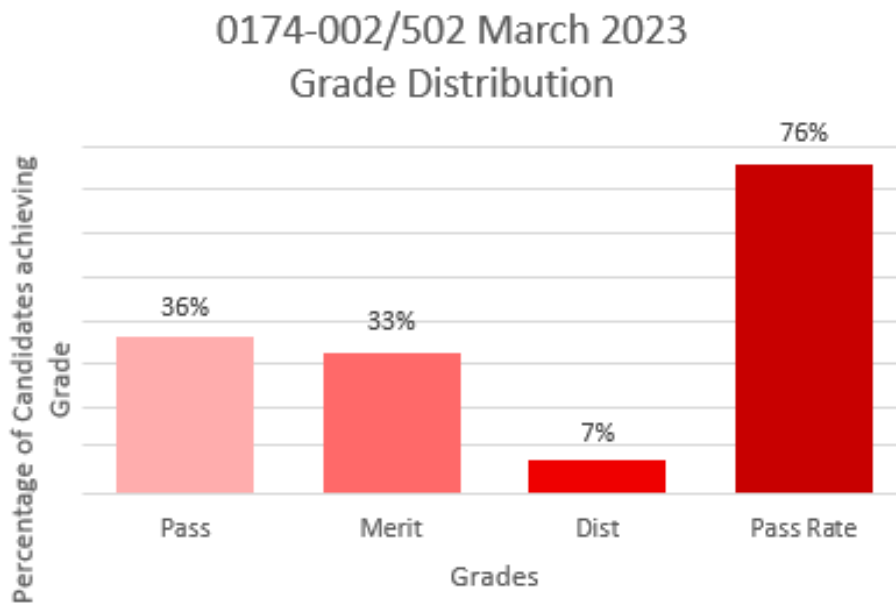
Assessment: 0174-502/002

Series: **March 2023**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	35
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 was generally balanced and covered a good level of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Questions were answered with a varying degree of accuracy and depth, and overall candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year. It was also evident that a number of questions were interpreted incorrectly by some candidates, resulting in the question not being attempted or misunderstanding what was being asked.

Candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as physical adaptations for shade, control measures for disease and the reduction of environmental harm when using machinery. Higher scoring candidates demonstrated the ability to justify their answers and gain maximum marks.

Many candidates demonstrated weaknesses in both the recall and understanding questions that related to machinery. Some candidates omitted to attempt to answer the questions that related to the PTO and methods of transmitting power mechanically. Some of the responses to the knowledge questions on perennial weeds in lawns were limited. For example, when asked about perennial weeds survival in lawns, some responses cited the features of perennial weeds but did not relate them to the context of surviving in a lawn. Some candidates missed the opportunity to gain marks as they were unable to demonstrate recall of knowledge for names of plants as examples for questions regarding plant nomenclature.

The candidates who achieved higher marks were able to demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, backed up by relevant examples and including explanation and justification where needed. Lower achieving candidates tended to give brief and listed answers. There was evidence of candidates not fully reading questions, which meant they missed out on marks by not responding in the way needed or providing the level of detail required to access the full range of marks available. Candidates did not always engage with the command verbs, for example simply stating rather than explaining, this meant that candidates did not always provide enough detail when asked for explanations or descriptions.

Candidates need to be reminded to take care and read the questions carefully, particularly the command words where a named example or a specific number of points may need to be covered.

Overall, candidates showed strength in the following areas:

- Plant health
- Plant ID, selection and planting.

Candidates require further support in:

- Operation of land based industry machinery
- Biology of weeds and the problems they cause.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended answer question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of horticulture in general. Candidates were asked about managing biosecurity. There were some well-developed answers with some excellent use of examples and some higher-level candidates were able to discuss a range of measures to take when managing a biosecurity risk with in-depth examples. The responses to the ERQ showed a reasonable understanding of hygiene measures. However, most candidates failed to discuss key

areas such as quarantine and focussed on IPM. Fewer responses showed an appreciation of the full range of measures or used relevant terminology.

A number of candidates showed that they were not fully familiar with the written examination technique. Candidates are urged to read the questions carefully and provide answers relevant to them. City & Guilds has produced a technical exam guide to support the work on exam technique, which is available to download from

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

Centres may also refer to the past papers available to download from the same webpage under the Past Papers tab.