

0174-508 – Level 3 Horticulture - Theory exam (2)

March 2023

Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – March 2023.....	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 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;

0174-508 – Level 3 Horticulture - Theory exam (2)

Theory Exam – March 2023

Grade Boundaries and distribution

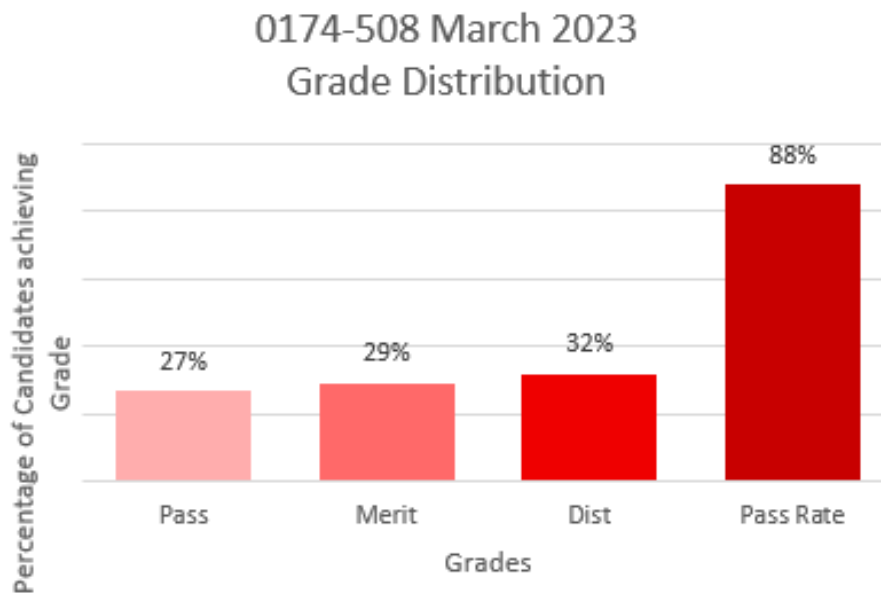
Assessment: **0174-508**

Series: **March 2023**

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

Total marks available	60
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: 0174-508

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.

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:

- Health benefits of horticulture
- Practical constraints applicable to hard-landscape projects
- Tree and shrub maintenance and factors linked to the science underpinning this.

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

- An understanding of **all** aspects of the business environment including insurance, charitable status, competition, cash management and production efficiency.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended response question allowed candidates to apply their knowledge and understanding across an area of their own choice, specifically a named horticultural business or organisation. The nature of the question, about how the business or organisation might attract new customers, meant that the most common type of business used was a garden centre. All candidates gained marks, with those gaining the most considering a breadth of options such as websites, loyalty schemes, discounts, special offers and extension of the offering e.g. to include tea rooms and restaurants, but then also expanding the responses to explain how this was effective and possible limitations.

With this question focused on an aspect of business focused on the customer, it was clearly much better-understood than other areas of business where questions consider the topic from the perspective of the owner or manager.

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.