

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

March 2024

Examiner Report

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It 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 assessments in the 2024 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 0174-502 – Level 3 Horticulture (Theory exam)
 - March 2024

Theory Exam

0174-502 – Level 3 Horticulture (Theory exam)

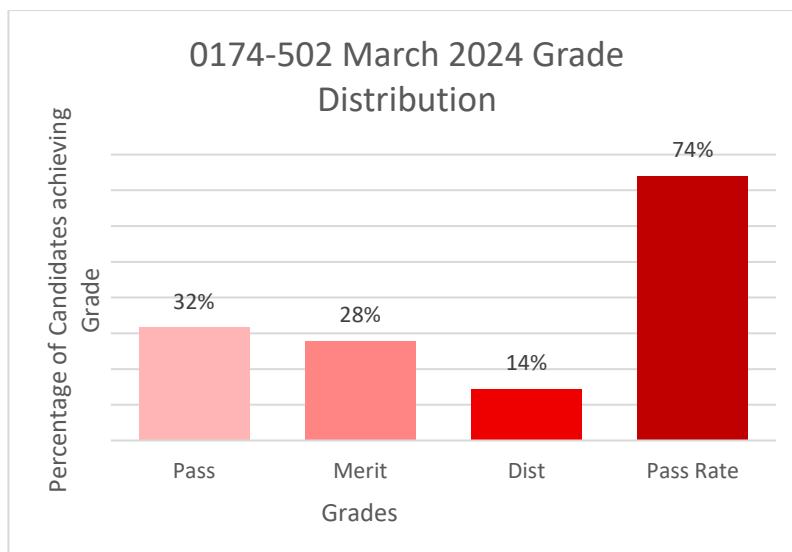
Grade Boundaries

Assessment: **0174-502**
Series: **March 2024 (Spring)**

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 distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment:



Chief Examiner Commentary

Assessment component: 0174-502

Series 1 March 2024

The question paper was generally balanced and covered a good level of knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. Candidates answered questions with varying degrees of accuracy and depth. The candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year. Some questions were interpreted incorrectly as candidates did not recognise specific terms from the qualification handbook which affected the content of their answer. A number of candidates did not attempt questions or did not understand what was being asked.

Candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge, gaining marks in topics such as machinery pre-use checks, the leaf adaptations and plant certification schemes. Higher scoring candidates demonstrated the ability to justify their answers and gain maximum marks.

Overall, candidates showed strength in the following areas:

- Machinery operations
- Pre-use checks of machinery

Many candidates demonstrated weaknesses in both the recall and understanding questions that related to plant nomenclature and features of plant families. Some of the responses to the knowledge questions on factors causing root disease in glasshouses were limited and basic. Some candidates missed the opportunity to gain marks as they were unable to demonstrate recall of knowledge for names of plant families.

The Extended Response Question gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the qualification and knowledge of controlling pests, diseases and weeds issues in outdoor environment. There were some well-developed answers evident with some excellent use of examples and some higher-level candidates were able to discuss a range of measures to take to control pests, diseases and weeds with in-depth examples. The responses to the ERQ showed a reasonable understanding of IPM, cultural, biological, physical and chemical controls, biosecurity and plant selection. However, most candidates failed to discuss key areas such as legislation and life cycles. Few responses showed an appreciation of the full range of measures or used relevant terminology. Some candidates did not structure their answer effectively to allow them to explore the problems and solutions in detail. These candidates tended to focus on one or two issues rather than dealing with the full scope of the issues raised in the question.

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.

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>

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