



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

March 2024

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 2024** 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 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

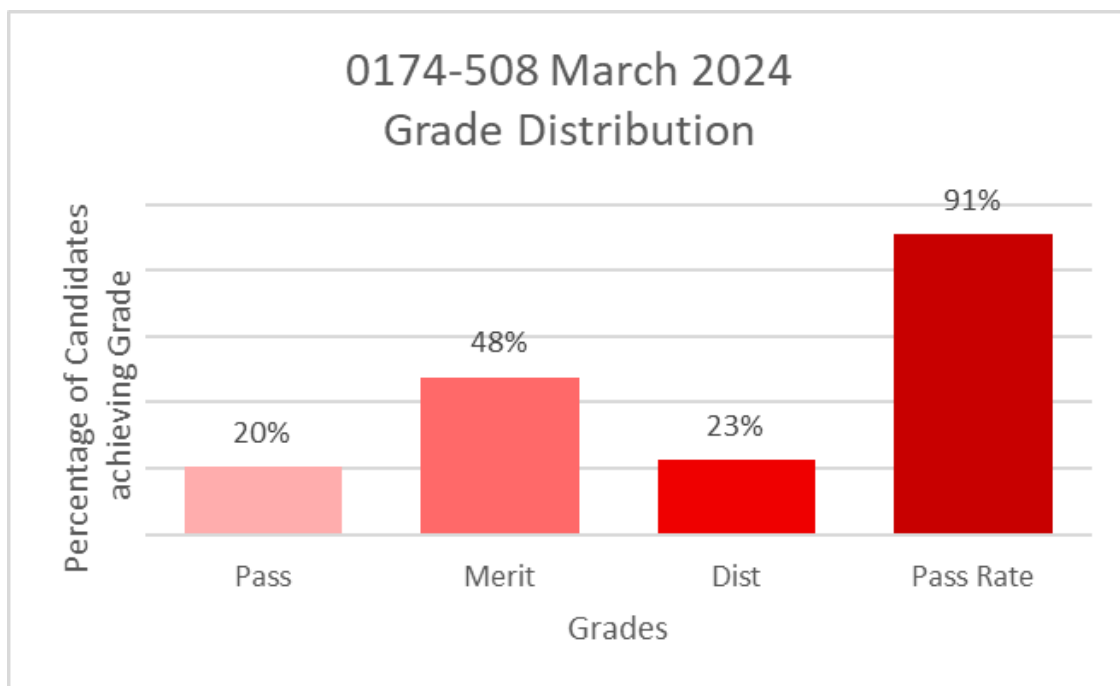
Assessment: **0174-508**

Series: **March 2024**

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 balanced and contained a range of questions that tested knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. The knowledge questions linked to practical topics were generally well answered, however, as in previous series', the questions from unit 310 that link to financial records and legislation often presented problems.

Overall, candidates showed strength in:

- The implications of wildlife legislation.
- Technique of pruning trees by crown lifting.
- Understanding the ways in which a tree could suffer an injury.
- The detrimental effects of trees on cultivated areas.
- Legal rights of an employee in work.
- Benefits and limitations of partnerships when compared to a sole trader.
- Characteristics of a customer base.
- Ways to enhance customer loyalty.
- Use of geo-membranes in hard landscaping.
- Maintenance requirements for a natural stone patio.

Candidates appear to require further support in:

- Naming Acts of Parliament.
- Partnership agreements and changing business structures.
- The structure and purpose of the balance sheet.

The Extended Response Question provided candidates with the opportunity to use a named example to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the topic area and discuss continuity of work. Those that used a garden centre as an example often had more breadth and depth in their answers than those that used a landscaper. Weaker candidates provided answers that gave general information with few links to relevant ways of ensuring continuity of work throughout the year. The stronger candidates discussed relevant methods and applied it to the question. Some suggestions were quite innovative, covering diversification, technology, and novel working practices.

Some candidates misinterpreted the question as requiring methods to ensure employees were able to work throughout the year, however, in many cases the answers provided were still relevant and gained marks.

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. Centres are advised to revisit current handbooks, test specifications and previous papers, to prepare candidates for exams. Candidates should be reminded of exam techniques. In addition to paying attention to the command verbs, candidates should also ensure that the correct number of responses are given to any question.

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>