

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

March 2025

Examiner Report

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Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Principal 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 2025** 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;
Level 3 Horticulture – Theory Exam (2).

Theory Exam – March 2025

Grade Boundaries and distribution

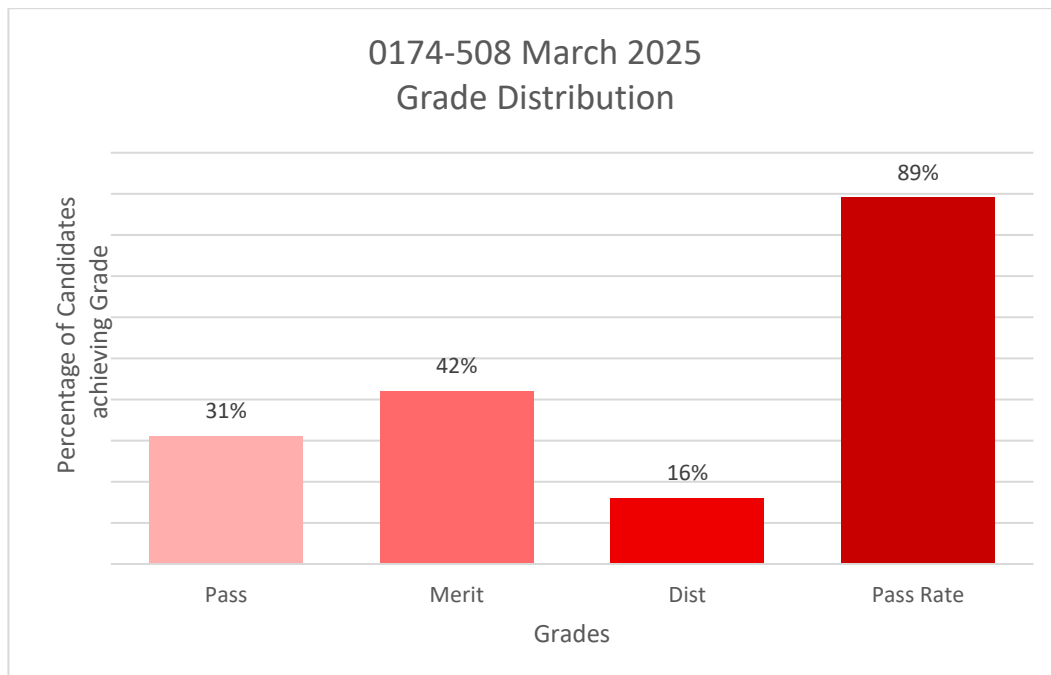
Assessment: **0174-508**

Series: **March 2025**

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:



Principal 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. As seen in previous series', candidates found the questions from unit 310 around financial records and legislation more difficult. Candidates achieved a wide spread of marks with those who achieved the lower marks showing a poor understanding of technical terms or not providing sufficiently accurate answers to the question.

Overall, candidates demonstrated strengths in several key areas. They exhibited strong knowledge of effective pruning techniques, and a solid understanding of how existing trees might be damaged on landscaping sites. Additionally, they showed awareness of how trees can impact the foundations of buildings and underground services. Furthermore, candidates were knowledgeable about the uses of edge restraints when constructing gravel paths.

The following topics posed the greatest challenges for candidates: understanding the roles of primary businesses, the effects of competitors on businesses, and understanding the differences between charities and conventional businesses.

The Extended Response Question provided candidates with the opportunity to use a named industry to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the topic areas and the impact on those employed in a chosen industry. Those who achieved lower marks provided answers that gave only one or two suitable examples of legislation, and the impact of this legislation was poorly understood and lacking information around how it impacts on horticultural businesses. The strongest candidates discussed a range of legislation, including those linked to employee welfare, not just health and safety, with valid examples and their impact on the horticultural businesses and employee welfare.

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. They need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required and with the number of examples asked for. Centres are advised to revisit current handbooks, test specifications and previous papers, to prepare candidates for exams. Candidates should be reminded of exam techniques.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds 'Exam Guides' available here:

[Horticulture qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds](#)