0174-523 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture

March 2023

Examiner Report

Contents

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:
0174-523 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Forestry and Arboriculture - Theory exam

Theory Exam – March 2023
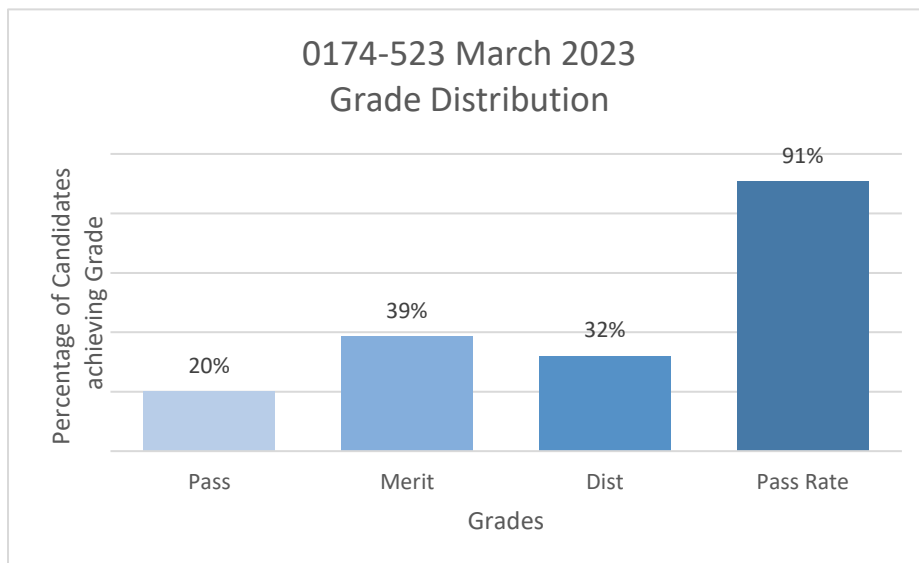
Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **0174-523**
Series: **March 2023**

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

Total marks available	
Pass mark	17
Merit mark	23
Distinction mark	29

The graph below shows the approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:

0174-523 March 2023 Grade Distribution

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 0174-523

Series 1 (March 2023)

Overall achievement for the March 2023 paper was very similar to that of March 2022; however, it has been noted that higher percentage of candidates have gained distinction, with a slight increase in candidates gaining merit and a corresponding decrease in the number of candidates gaining a pass.

The paper was comparable with the March 2022 series paper, being well structured, written at the appropriate level and testing a range of abilities.

Overall, the cohort has performed well on questions relating to the following topics: job applications and interview progression, control measures to manage pollution, biosecurity in Forestry and Arboriculture, plant parts and their functions, influence on plant growth, actions to improve soil properties, tree protection, understanding the tree selection process for specific sites and understanding aftercare requirements for trees.

Although knowledge and understanding was shown across the curriculum, weaker performance was noted in questions relating to some topics within units 205 Introduction to Plant Science and 206 Tree Establishment, in particular relating to plant physiology and nursery stock. As is the case every year, candidates performed less well across all units where the focus of questions related more to forestry than arboriculture.

Questions requiring candidates to apply knowledge and understanding in an integrated way provided some positive differentiation between the low and high performing candidates, as would be expected for these types of questions. Some candidates appeared not to have referred to the scenario for context when attempting these integrated questions and, as a consequence, did not gain marks. This was particularly noted where the scenario related to a forest management company establishing a particular crop on a relatively large area , with answers chosen by some of the candidates were not reflecting this scenario;.

Centres are encouraged to support to candidates in developing exam technique.

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