

0174-512 Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (1080)

March 2024

Chief Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – March 2024	4
Grade Boundaries and distribution.....	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 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:

0174-512 Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture - Theory Exam (1).

Theory Exam – March 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

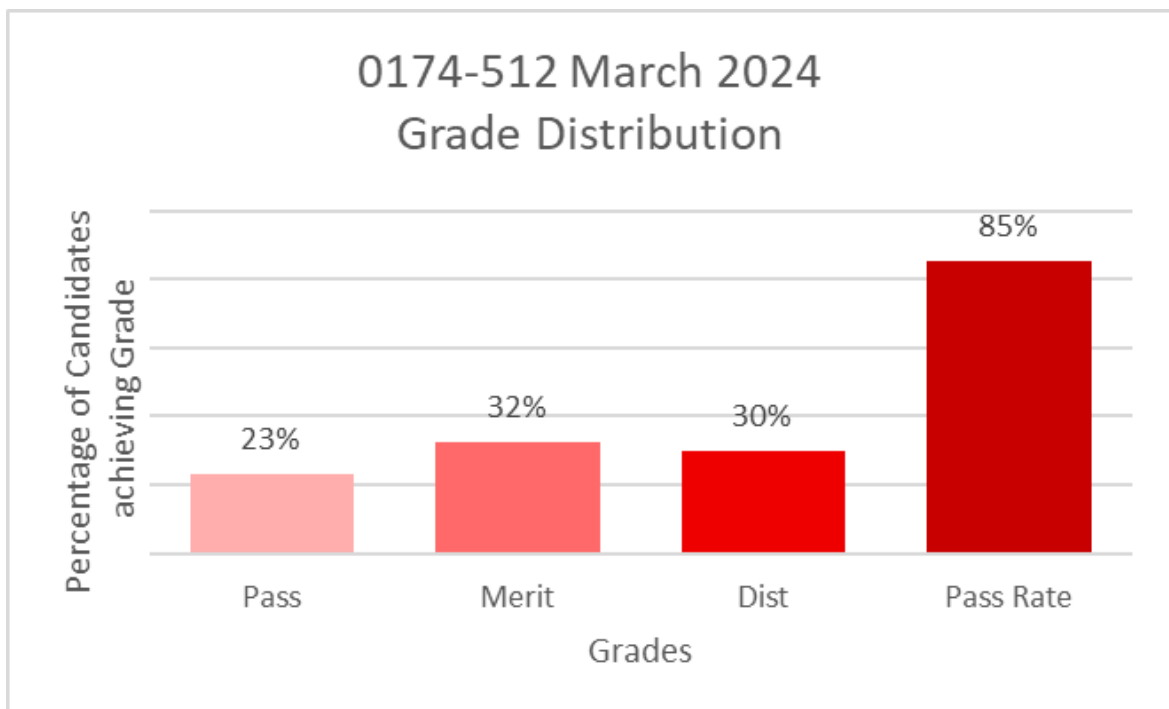
Assessment: **0174-512**

Series: **March 2024**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	35
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: 0174-512

Series 1 (March)

Candidates showed a good range of knowledge across the exam and produced a wide range of responses within the core units being assessed. Most questions were answered with some degree of accuracy and varying levels of depth. This has been evidenced through the 11% increase in pass rates from 74% in March 2023, to 85% in March 2024.

Candidates scored well where questions are more related to the practical unit on the qualification, with candidates consistently scoring well when explaining how to fell problem trees, factors that make trees more difficult to fell and the function and purpose of two chainsaw safety features.

There has been a trend over previous papers that candidates overall do not answer questions relating to plant and soil science consistently well. There is an inconsistency amongst most candidates relating to plant and soil science. Candidates overall did not answer questions relating to the physical properties of sand and the differences between photosynthesis and respiration well, however, they did answer questions on how clay soils affect plant growth and development better. Many candidates did not know three underground plant organs and lost basic A01 knowledge marks.

The extended response question (ERQ) provided a scenario for candidates to write about the holistic management of veteran oak trees, on a park. The question provided an appropriate level of differentiation between candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the subject. The ERQ provided a wide range of answers, with many lower-level candidates focusing on one management technique, in many instances, the removal of the trees. Knowledge and understanding of the pest, the location and different management techniques were lacking in lower scoring answers. Higher scoring candidates were able to provide more in-depth answers that covered the range of management techniques and used appropriate technical terminology in their answers.

Themes where most candidates did well:

- Almost all candidates scored well in questions relating to tree felling and chainsaw maintenance.
- Many candidates could name causes of ill health in trees.
- Most candidates scored well on the properties of clay soils and how the characteristics of the soil affect plant growth.

Themes where most candidates struggled:

- Few candidates could name underground plant organs or the physical characteristics of sand soils.
- Many candidates failed to score marks on structured questions, i.e. consisting of part a) and b). There was one question on this where candidates were required to name where breeding for resistance against pests and diseases has been used. Many candidates did not score part a, but did score some points for b, where they were required to give advantages of the approach. Many candidates despite not scoring for part a which required specific information, scored b, due to the generic nature of the question.

The higher scoring candidates performed well across all areas. They read the questions carefully and gave appropriate responses. This has been evidenced by the increase in distinction grades of 8% from the March 2023 series to the March 2024 series. 22% of candidates achieved a distinction grade in March 2023, compared to 30% in March 2024.

Centres should:

- Encourage candidates to read the questions carefully to improve their chances of scoring full marks.
- Work with candidates on exam techniques to understand the active verbs of the questions.
- Review past papers and concentrate on plant and soil science knowledge and understanding.
- Work on the development of the Extended Response Question answers so candidates provide a sufficiently detailed answer.

City & Guilds also offers a technical exam guide to support the work on the exam technique.

All documents are available to download from [Technicals in Horticulture and Forestry & Arboriculture qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications/technical-qualifications)

Past papers and marking schemes: Documents – Level 3 – Assessment materials – Past Papers tabs

Exam guide: Documents – Level 3 – Assessment materials