



R3114

**UNDERSTANDING A RANGE OF SPECIALIST ELEMENTS IN
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GARDEN & URBAN PLANTINGS**

Level 3

Thursday 30 June 2011

15:15 – 16:15

Written Examination

Candidate Number:.....

Candidate Name:.....

Centre Number/Name:.....

IMPORTANT – Please read carefully before commencing.

- i) The duration of this paper is **60 minutes**.
- ii) **ALL** questions should be attempted.
- iii) **EACH** question carries **10 marks**.
- iv) Write your answers legibly in the spaces provided.
- v) Use **METRIC** measurements only.
- vi) Where plant names are required, they should include genus, species and where appropriate, cultivar.
- vii) Please note, sufficient lined space is provided. It is not necessary that all lined space is used in answering the question.

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

MARKS

- Q1** a) State the design components of a summer bedding scheme in an amenity situation.

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- b) Describe a work schedule for the display in a).

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MARKS

Total Mark

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Q2 a) Name **FOUR** flowering shrubs suitable for a deciduous woodland garden that would provide year round interest.

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Please see over/.....

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b) Describe the annual maintenance of a woodland garden.

Total Mark

Q3 a) State **TWO** reasons for the use of pollarding.

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b) Name **TWO** plants suitable for pollarding.

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Total Mark

Q4 a) Describe the characteristics of a suitable growing medium for roof gardens.

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Please see over/.....

- b) Name **FOUR** examples of suitable components of a growing medium for roof gardens.

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- c) Describe an irrigation system suitable for a roof garden.

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Total Mark

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Q5

Describe ways by which water can be conserved in the garden.

10

Please see over/.....

Total Mark

Q6

Discuss the problems associated with growing plants in a modern conservatory.

10

Total Mark

13

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**RHS LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF GARDEN
PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND PLANTING
WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

15:15pm Thursday 30 June 2011

R3114

**UNDERSTANDING A RANGE OF SPECIALIST ELEMENTS IN
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GARDEN AND URBAN PLANTINGS**

Candidates Registered	103		Total Candidates Passed	61	83.56%
Candidates Entered	73	70.87%	Passed with Commendation	26	35.62%
Candidates Absent	14	13.59%	Passed	35	47.95%
Candidates Deferred	9	8.74%	Failed	12	16.44%
Candidates Withdrawn	7	6.80%			

- Q1** a) State the design components of a summer bedding scheme in an amenity situation.
- b) Describe a work schedule for the display in a).

Candidates needed to mention the use of edging plants, dot plants, standards and groundwork plants, and how they would be used in a typical bedding scheme. Candidates who made use of diagrams to reinforce their answers often gained more marks as it added clarity to their answers.

Candidates who actually 'described' work schedule rather than provide a list obviously were awarded more marks, so weeding might have gained some marks but weeding on a regular basis when weeds are small and conditions dry, weeding by hand or use of a hoe gives a clearer description and earns more marks.

Candidates who approached this by looking at the schedule on a month by month basis often seemed to cover most aspects of the schedule; those who took a more random approach often seemed to miss basic tasks.

- Q2** a) Name **FOUR** flowering shrubs suitable for a deciduous woodland garden that would provide year round interest.
- b) Describe the annual maintenance of a woodland garden.

The question clearly asked for flowering shrubs, and at this level the assumption would be candidates would select shrubs grown for their flowers as opposed to shrubs that might have quite insignificant flowers as part of their seasonal cycle. However *Cornus alba* and *Hedera helix* were often given as examples, trees also were sometimes given.

Candidates who were able to name four suitable shrubs, each flowering at different times of the year gained most marks.

Candidates were given considerable freedom with the second part of the question and a number of maintenance tasks were recognised and rewarded providing there was suitable justification for that task to be part of a maintenance schedule, contained some description and indication as to the time of the year the task would be carried out.

- Q3** a) State **TWO** reasons for the use of pollarding.
- b) Name **TWO** plants suitable for pollarding.
- c) Describe, with the use of diagrams, **TWO** methods of pollarding street trees.

Candidates were able to select a number of reasons for pollarding; most often 'restriction of the head' and 'aesthetic purposes' were given and rewarded.

Candidates who had a clear knowledge of pollarding were able to give suitable plants. However there were a number of candidates who used examples of plants that are regularly stooled at ground level such as *Cornus alba*.

In the third part of the question candidates often failed to recognise the need for diagrams and the reference to street trees. Candidates who were able to describe regularly pollarded trees and lapsed pollarding in relation to street trees and the implications of health and safety were awarded most marks.

- Q4** a) Describe the characteristics of a suitable growing medium for roof gardens.
- b) Name **FOUR** examples of suitable components of a growing medium for roof gardens.
- c) Describe an irrigation system suitable for a roof garden.

Candidates were able to select from a number of characteristics of growing media those most appropriate to roof gardens such as lightweight, moisture retentive and ability to maintain a stable structure.

Candidates who related the components of growing media to roof gardens gained most marks. There was a tendency for some candidates to use components that were not entirely appropriate, and if dried out would probably blow away.

Candidates who chose to describe a suitable irrigation system gained most marks, however frequently the system was not named or described.

Q5 Describe ways by which water can be conserved in the garden.

Candidates who concentrated answers on the conservation of water were awarded most marks. A number of methods could be used such as avoiding sprinklers, use of mulches, water collection systems, drought tolerant plants etc. There was a tendency for some candidates to over-emphasise the use of re-cycled water and neglect the other ways water could be conserved.

Q6 Discuss the problems associated with growing plants in a modern conservatory.

Candidates who made the link between the needs of the user of the conservatory and the needs of the plants gained most marks.

When discussing these needs summer and winter temperature, humidity control, ventilation, watering, would all be paramount and probably conflict.

Some candidates described the problems associated with growing plants under glass and missed the point about a conservatory.

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