



Sharing the best in Gardening

R2112
UNDERSTANDING THE CHOICE, ESTABLISHMENT AND
MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN PLANTS AND LAWNS

Level 2

Tuesday 26 June 2012

11:00 – 11:40

Written Examination

Candidate Name:

Candidate Number:

Centre Name/Number:

IMPORTANT – Please read carefully before commencing.

- i) The duration of this paper is **40** 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 questions.

Ofqual Unit Code T/601/0263

Please turn over/.....

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

MARKS

Q1 a) Describe what is meant by the following terms used in seasonal bedding:

- i) edging;
- ii) groundwork (infill);
- iii) dot plants.

2

2

2

b) Describe what is meant by the term tropical bedding.

2

c) Name **TWO** plants, from different genera, used in tropical bedding.

2

Total Mark

Please see over/.....

MARKS

Q2 a) Name **FOUR** distinct herbaceous perennial plants suitable for growing in a shady area.

4

b) Describe the symptoms of the following diseases on herbaceous perennials:

- i) powdery mildew;
- ii) grey mould.

3

3

[illegible]

Total Mark

Please turn over/.....

Q3 a) State what is meant by the terms:

- i) climber;
- ii) wall shrub.

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b) Name **FOUR** climbers for use in a garden situation, **EACH** from a different genus.

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c) Name **FOUR** wall shrubs for use in a garden situation, **EACH** from a different genus.

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Total Mark

Please see over/.....

- Q4** a) State the characteristics of a suitable container for the display of alpine or rock garden plants.

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- b) Name **FOUR** distinct alpine or rock garden plants suitable for cultivation in the container stated in a).

4

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Total Mark

Please turn over/.....

10

Describe **FIVE** maintenance tasks carried out on a garden pool (excluding the maintenance of plants).

Total Mark

6

MARKS

Q6 a) Describe the establishment of a lawn from seed under the following headings:

- i) soil cultivation;
- ii) seed sowing.

53

b) Name **TWO** grasses suitable for a fine lawn.

2

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Total Mark

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**The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.
Charity Registration Number: 222879/SC038262**



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UNDERSTANDING THE CHOICE, ESTABLISHMENT AND
MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN PLANTS AND LAWNS

Level 2

Tuesday 26 June 2012

Candidates Registered	997	Pass with Commendation	336 (42%)
Candidates Entered	796	Pass	315 (40%)
Absent/Withdrawn/Deferred	201	Fail	145 (18%)
Total Candidates Passed	651 (82%)		

Senior Examiner's Comments:

1. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a good range of plant knowledge and be able to give accurately named plant examples where appropriate. Common names and generic names are often too vague and cannot be rewarded in the positive manner that genus, species and where appropriate, variety/cultivar can. This is particularly important when answering questions relating to particular (named) plant(s). Marks can only be awarded for these narratives where the example(s) are correctly and fully identified.
2. Candidates must be able to display accurate knowledge of the technical terms and concepts detailed in the syllabus, in the context of horticulture and be aware that wider interpretation will not be rewarded. The examination should be regarded as a possible introduction to higher level studies, which will only be open to those who are in possession of a clear understanding of the horticultural terms and concepts which are current.
3. The introductory rubric given on the first page of each question paper should be read carefully by candidates. At each examination there are a significant number of candidates who ignore or misread the instructions given and consequently may not perform as well as they could have done.
4. Candidates should pace themselves during each paper. The most successful candidates allow sufficient time to read the question thoroughly before answering it and also take time to read through their answers. They should take care to write as legibly as possible, so that the examiner is in no doubt about what is intended.
5. Candidates need to interpret key words within questions, particularly those such as 'state', 'list' and 'describe'. Questions requiring descriptions or explanations obviously require a more detailed answer than those requiring a list.

6. It is important to ensure that responses to questions are to the point. Candidates should bear in mind that small sketches might be used to convey information more succinctly than words.
7. Successful candidates ensure that their answers are focused and to the point. It is disappointing when they cannot be rewarded for their efforts because the answer is irrelevant to the particular question. Candidates should take note of the mark allocation for specific sections and allocate their time and efforts accordingly.
8. Diagrams can enhance an answer and where appropriate can replace detailed descriptions. They should be large, clear and well annotated, and preferably in pencil. Colour may be used successfully but only where it is relevant to the answer.
9. In each examination it is clear that some candidates are ill prepared to answer papers of the type set. It is essential that candidates have the opportunity to practice questions. Ideally some papers should be answered in a time constrained situation.
10. Candidates should be aware of the reading list of suggested books for the RHS Level 2 Certificate in The Principles of Garden Planning, Establishment and Maintenance which is available from the Qualifications Section and can also be found on the RHS website together with past papers.

Examiners' Comments:

MARKS

Q1 a) *Describe what is meant by the following terms used in seasonal bedding:*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| i) <i>edging;</i> | 2 |
| ii) <i>groundwork (infill);</i> | 2 |
| iii) <i>dot plants.</i> | 2 |

b) *Describe what is meant by the term tropical bedding.* **2**

c) *Name **TWO** plants, from different genera, used in tropical bedding.* **2**

a) Most candidates correctly described the seasonal bedding terms. The best answers which included details of the height and growth pattern for each term as well as plant examples were awarded full marks.

- i) Edging plants are positioned around the edge of the scheme and are 150 – 200mm in height.
- ii) Groundwork (infill) plants make up the majority of the bed and are 300- 450m in height.
- iii) Dot plants are used within a bed to break up the groundwork by the use of plants with a different texture of foliage or a different colour flower.

b) Candidates who were familiar with tropical bedding as a design style correctly described it as one which has a tropical look by using plants with very bright flowers or large attractive foliage and were awarded full marks.

- c) Candidates who provided full botanical names for plants suitable for use in tropical bedding e.g. *Canna indica* and *Ricinus communis* gained maximum marks.

Q2 a) Name **FOUR** distinct herbaceous perennial plants suitable for growing in a shady area. **4**

b) Describe the symptoms of the following diseases on herbaceous perennials:

- i) powdery mildew;
- ii) grey mould.

3
3

a) Most candidates provided the full botanical name for a range of herbaceous perennials e.g. *Geranium macrorrhizum*, *Bergenia cordifolia*, *Persicaria affinis* and *Ajuga reptans* and were awarded full marks.

b) The best candidates described the clear differences between the symptoms of these two diseases i.e.

- i) Powdery mildew appears as a white or grey powdery fungal growth over the surface of the leaves, stems and flowers. Leaves become yellowed, dry and brown and the shoots and flowers become disfigured.
- ii) Grey mould can be seen as fuzzy grey mould with white or pale patches on the flower petals. The grey mould will grow on dead brown patches on the leaves and can affect all parts of the plant.

Some candidates described the causes and treatments of the two diseases which were not required and could not be awarded any marks.

Q3 a) State what is meant by the terms:

- i) climber;
- ii) wall shrub.

2

b) Name **FOUR** climbers for use in a garden situation, **EACH** from a different genus. **4**

c) Name **FOUR** wall shrubs for use in a garden situation, **EACH** from a different genus. **4**

a) Most candidates were able to state that a climber is a plant which has a natural modification which enables it to climb and a wall shrub does not have any means of modification to enable it to climb but benefits from being grown against a wall.

- b) Candidates who provided the full botanical name for a range of climbers e.g. *Clematis montana*, *Wisteria sinensis*, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* and *Hedera helix* gained full marks.
- c) Full marks were awarded to candidates who gave the full botanical name for correct examples of wall plants e.g. *Garrya elliptica*, *Chaenomeles speciosa*, *Pyracantha* 'Orange Glow' and *Fremontodendron californicum*.

Q4 a) State the characteristics of a suitable container for the display of alpine or rock garden plants. **6**

b) Name **FOUR** distinct alpine or rock garden plants suitable for cultivation in the container stated in a). **4**

- a) The majority of candidates were able to provide a range of specific characteristics for containers that are suitable for displaying alpine or rock garden plants. These included; drainage, dimensions of the container i.e. broad top, shallow and large enough to accommodate growth, sturdiness, weather resistance, insulation of the root zone, construction material and the aesthetics of the container.

Some candidates included the growing media and positioning of the container in their answers which was not required and could not be awarded any marks.

- b) Most candidates were able to give the full botanical name for cushion type plants which are the most suitable for growing in containers. Examples included; *Armeria maritima*, *Sedum acre*, *Saxifraga x apiculata* and *Sempervivum arachnoideum*.

Q5 Describe **FIVE** maintenance tasks carried out on a garden pool (excluding the maintenance of plants). **10**

The best candidates were able to describe appropriate maintenance tasks which included; conserving the quality of the water for plants and fish through the removal of blanket weed, cleaning the liner, maintaining the pump and filter, netting leaves and debris, repairing the edges of the pool and the liner and the use of barley straw to reduce the algal population.

Q6 a) Describe the establishment of a lawn from seed under the following headings:

- i) soil cultivation; **5**
- ii) seed sowing. **3**

b) Name **TWO** grasses suitable for a fine lawn. **2**

- a)
 - i) Full marks were awarded to candidates who described the cultivation of soil in the correct sequence i.e. forking to remove weeds etc., raking the soil level, consolidating the soil, raking to create a final tilth and applying fertiliser. Some candidates described the use of a stale seed bed after removing the weeds which was acceptable.
 - ii) Most candidates included the following detail when describing sowing a lawn from seed; broadcasting seed at a rate of 35g/m² in two directions after dividing the area to be sown in two halves. Some candidates used diagrams to illustrate their answers and gained full marks.
- b) The majority of candidates gave full botanical names for grass species suitable for a fine lawn e.g. *Agrostis tenuis (capillaris)* and *Festuca rubra* and were awarded full marks.

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