



R3112

**UNDERSTANDING THE SELECTION AND USE OF
LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS IN THE GARDEN**

Level 3

Friday 17 February 2012

11:15 – 12:30

Written Examination

Candidate Number:.....

Candidate Name:.....

Centre Number/Name:.....

IMPORTANT – Please read carefully before commencing.

- i) The duration of this paper is **75 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 A/601/3794

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

Please turn over/.....

Q1 a) Evaluate the use of French drains in **TWO** garden situations.

4

[illegible]

b) Describe **THREE NAMED** plants to grow in permanently wet soil.

6

Please see over/.....
MARKS

Total Mark

3

the use of people who are visually impaired.

6

Please see over/.....
MARKS

b) Describe **TWO** scented plants from different genera to include in a garden for the visually impaired.

Please turn over/.....
MARKS

- Q3** a) Describe the properties of **TWO** contrasting **NAMED** materials for plant pots.

5

Total Mark

4

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

b) State, for **EACH** plant named in a):

- i) decorative merit;
- ii) height;
- iii) site requirements.

6

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please see over/.....
MARKS

.....

.....

.....

Total Mark

4

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

b) State, for **EACH** plant named in a):

- i) decorative merit;
- ii) spread;
- iii) season of interest.

6

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please see over/.....
MARKS

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please turn over/.....
MARKS

- i) sculptural turf features;
- ii) wildflower meadows.

11

Please see over/.....
MARKS

.....

.....

.....

.....

Total Mark

Please see over/.....
MARKS

[illegible]

PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS PAGE

PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS PAGE

**©These questions are the property of the Royal Horticultural Society.
They must not be reproduced or sold.**

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



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

11:15am Friday 17 February 2012

R3112

**UNDERSTANDING THE SELECTION AND USE OF
LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS IN THE GARDEN**

Candidates Registered	99		Total Candidates Passed	65	77.38%
Candidates Entered	84	84.85%	Passed with Commendation	21	25.0%
Candidates Absent	11	11.11%	Passed	44	52.38%
Candidates Deferred	4	4.04%	Failed	19	22.62%
Candidates Withdrawn	-	-			

Q1 a) Evaluate the use of French drains in **TWO** garden situations.

b) Describe **THREE NAMED** plants to grow in permanently wet soil.

The appropriate use of French drains includes: collection of surface run-off from hard-landscaping surfaces such as patios and drives, to divert water from the base of steps, ramps and retaining walls, and to help drain heavy or compacted soils. French drains would not usually be used where water-logging is caused by a high water table. No marks were given for this situation unless the answer was qualified by a valid reason e.g. to feed a pond. Higher marks were given to candidates who were able to describe the detail of the drain for each situation. Marks were awarded for correctly named plants which are able to cope with permanently wet soil. No marks were given for plants growing in moist, well drained soils or submerged plants.

- Q2**
- a) Evaluate the suitability of hard landscaping features in a garden for the use of people who are visually impaired.
 - b) Describe **TWO** scented plants from different genera to include in a garden for the visually impaired.

When selecting hard landscaping features in gardens for people with visual impairment, the aim is to assist safe access and maximise participation and enjoyment. The designer must consider all aspects of the garden, so candidates who evaluated a **range** of features obtained the highest marks, including steps and ramps, paths and patios, raised beds, pergolas and water features. Many candidates limited their evaluation to aspects of safety, surface materials, and getting around, without much consideration of the practical solutions for the visually impaired gardener (e.g. raised beds for growing vegetables). Similarly consideration needs to be given as to how the visually impaired gardener can best enjoy the garden through stimulation of the other senses; sound, smell and touch. A limited number of marks could be gained if the answer referred to materials only.

- Q3**
- a) Describe the properties of **TWO** contrasting **NAMED** materials for plant pots.
 - b) Evaluate the contribution of containers to the overall design and function of a garden.

This question required a description of the advantages and disadvantages of two contrasting materials for plant pots. Acceptable materials include terracotta, plastic, metal, stone, concrete, glazed pottery, fibreglass, wood, recycled objects (specified). Better answers mentioned the important benefits or limitations of each material e.g. moisture retention/loss, effect of heat and cold on roots, durability and longevity of materials, resistance to frost, maintenance. As in previous examinations, comments that could relate to a wide range of materials, or that are a matter of personal taste (e.g. terracotta is attractive) received no marks.

The second part of the question required an evaluation of how containers can be used in the design and function of a garden. Most candidates were able to list a good range of positive benefits of containers for example: extended seasonal effect, extend possible range of plant material, moveable displays, can change/renew with season, introduce formality/ repetition, can be protected from cold, good for balconies/roof gardens, fruit and vegetable growing. Higher marks were awarded for a good description or good example for each point. Few candidates stated the maintenance drawbacks associated with container gardening e.g. watering, feeding, pest control.

- Q4** a) Name **FOUR** woody plants from different genera suitable for a winter display.
- b) State, for **EACH** plant named in a):
- i) decorative merit;
 - ii) height;
 - iii) site requirements.

Acceptable answers for the first part of the question included any woody plant from different genera suitable for winter display. This means plants having an additional ornamental merit through the winter months e.g. flowers, stems or bark. Evergreen shrubs with no additional winter feature gained no marks.

Most candidates were able to accurately state a decorative merit and height for plants named in part a). However, site requirements were not so well understood - marks were not awarded for generalised answers such as 'all soils' or 'most soils'. Acceptable site requirements could have included accurate soil conditions, aspect, or level of exposure, for instance.

- Q5** a) Name **FOUR** plants from different genera suitable for growing in very dry soils.
- b) State, for **EACH** plant named in a):
- i) decorative merit;
 - ii) spread;
 - iii) season of interest.

Acceptable answers included any plant from different genera able to grow in permanently dry soils. No marks were given for plants suited to moist, well drained soils. Most candidates were able to accurately state a decorative merit and season of interest for plants named in part a). Spread (referring to planting distance) was less accurately stated, and some candidates incorrectly described methods of seed dispersal.

- Q6** a) Review the possible design effects of grassed areas in **EACH** of the following situations:
- i) sculptural turf features;
 - ii) wildflower meadows.
- b) Name **FOUR** components of a seed mixture suitable for a summer wildflower meadow, including at least **ONE** grass.

This question required a review of the possible design effects of sculptural turf features, and wildflower meadows. Sculptural turf features could include large scale earth works to create entirely man-made landscape features; mazes created by selective removal of turf in creative patterns; the use of turf interspersed with mixed materials e.g. paving; decorative turf seating. Design may be introduced to wildflower meadows in a number of ways e.g. mowing of pathways to create walks, vistas, or axes; selective mowing to create patterns or open areas for seating or games; the use of mixed planting with grasses and perennials to create a prairie-style garden. As the question was about design, no marks could be given for discussions of wildlife habitats or maintenance regimes. Better answers included a range of options for each section, with a good description. Most candidates were able to specify one or more suitable native grasses and herbaceous perennials for a seed mix for a summer meadow. No marks were awarded for common names.

- Q7** Discuss how considerations of safety may influence the design of structures used in a sloping garden.

This question required a discussion of how safety may influence the design of structures in a sloping garden. Although candidates were able to list the basic structures that would need to be designed with safety in mind with regards to garden access, not all were able to back up statements with meaningful detail. For example it is not sufficient to state that surfaces need to be non-slip or that steps need to be well designed. Candidates must give examples of the most suitable materials and design specifications. Few answers paid sufficient attention to the difficulties of maintaining a sloping garden, e.g. risk of slipping and falling, risk of mowing on steep slopes, use of ladders/machinery/tools to cut hedges all of which would in turn influence the design of structures such as terraces and pathways. Answers discussing access, function, design, safety during maintenance and materials gained the highest marks.

Q8 Describe the contribution of pergolas to the design and function of an ornamental garden.

In general candidates answered this question by providing a list of situations where pergolas are used, sometimes with an example. The best answers stated a number of important contributions of pergolas, backed up by a fuller description, and where relevant, with named plant examples. A brief mention would gain only partial marks - as an example many candidates stated only that pergolas can frame a view with no further detail, (example could be: long pergola with bench or urn at far end or framing a view of the countryside beyond). Pergolas provide a wealth of design options; better answers included a range of possible contributions such as:

- screen ugly features;
- grow/support climbing plants, with examples;
- grow and train fruit with examples;
- create tunnel/ walkway;
- create formality/symmetry
- create focal point;
- create light/ shade contrast;
- create atmosphere/ cosy/ enclosed area;
- divide garden into areas;
- provide privacy;
- provide windbreak;
- provide shade in sunny garden.

Sketches and diagrams can sometimes help to illustrate answers.
No marks were given for comments relating to construction or maintenance.

**©These questions are the property of the Royal Horticultural Society.
They must not be reproduced or sold.**

**The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.
RHS Charity Registration No: 222879/SC038262**