

Excluding Examiner Comments



RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

## RHS Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and Development

### UNIT 1

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

09:30 - 11:30

Candidate Name: .....

Candidate Number: .....

Centre Name: .....

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### Instructions

This paper contains three sections which may be answered in any order. Candidates should answer:

- **Section A** – all questions (20 marks)
- **Section B** – all questions (50 marks)
- **Section C** – only **TWO** from **FOUR** questions (30 marks).

Place a cross (X) in the box identifying the **TWO** Section C questions you have answered.

<b>C 1</b>	<b>C 2</b>	<b>C 3</b>	<b>C 4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please note:**

- The duration of this paper is **120** minutes.
- Write all answers legibly in the spaces provided and use black or blue ink only.
- Use **METRIC** measurements only.
- Where plant names are required, they should include genus, species and where appropriate, cultivar.
- Please note, when the word '**distinct**' is used within a question, it means that the items have different characteristics or features.

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**RHS Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and Development - UNIT 1**

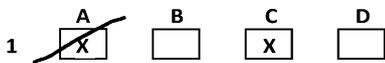
Candidate Name: ..... Centre Name: .....

Candidate Number: .....

**SECTION A**  
**RESPONSE GRID**

**Instructions**

Place a cross (X) in the box you believe is the correct answer. If you make a mistake, score through the box and place a cross in the correct box as follows:



Question	Answer			
	A	B	C	D
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## Section A

Answer ALL questions in this section.  
This section is worth 20 marks and each question is worth 1 mark.

### Question 1

Why is it important for gardeners to clean their hand tools before storing them?

- a) To comply with COSHH regulations
- b) To maintain a sharp edge on blades
- c) To prevent disease spread and rust
- d) To prevent the risk of iron deficiency

### Question 2



What is the purpose of the safety sign shown above:

- a) A sign giving information, or emergency instruction
- b) A sign giving warning of a hazard or danger
- c) A sign prescribing specific mandatory behaviour
- d) A sign prohibiting behaviour likely to cause danger

### Question 3

The three pillars of sustainability are:

- a) Economic viability, social equity and environmental protection
- b) Economic viability, equality and diversity and environmental protection
- c) Economic viability, climate mitigation and environmental protection
- d) Economic viability, compliance with legislation and environmental protection

### Question 4

Treating a person unfairly compared to others based on their age or race is classified as:

- a) Harassment
- b) Eutrophication
- c) Discrimination
- d) Infringement

**Question 5**

Which of the following is the most sustainable source of irrigation water?

- a) Extraction from boreholes
- b) Mains water supply
- c) Rainwater collection
- d) Extraction from rivers

**Question 6**

Why is taxonomy important in horticulture?

- a) It provides a system for classifying and naming plants accurately
- b) It ensures all plants are grown under the same conditions
- c) It records flowering times of plants within different climates
- d) It predicts how plants respond to different soil conditions

**Question 7**

Why do many flowers have brightly coloured petals?

- a) To absorb more sunlight for photosynthesis
- b) To store food for the developing seed
- c) To attract insects for pollination
- d) To prevent water loss through evaporation

**Question 8**

Lanceolate leaves are always:

- a) Palmate
- b) Pinnate
- c) Compound
- d) Simple

**Question 9**

What is main purpose of respiration within plants?

- a) To absorb water and nutrients from the soil
- b) To release energy required for growth processes
- c) To store sugar in the form of starch in the leaf
- d) To exchange the gases needed for photosynthesis

**Question 10**

Which of the following is a micronutrient?

- a) Calcium
- b) Sulphur
- c) Iron
- d) Magnesium

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**Question 11**

Which of the following should be consulted for information relating to notifiable pests and diseases?

- a) UK Plant Health Information Portal
- b) Health and Safety Executive
- c) Royal Horticultural Society
- d) Botanical Gardens Conservation International

**Question 12**

What is the name of the holistic tool used to manage plant health in gardens?

- a) Risk Assessment
- b) Garden Health Plan
- c) Site Appraisal
- d) The Casparian Strip

**Question 13**

Which pH is the most acidic?

- a) 6.0
- b) 7.0
- c) 8.0
- d) 9.0

**Question 14**

Which of the following fertilisers is likely to have the highest carbon footprint?

- a) Compost tea
- b) Organic blood, fish and bone
- c) Seaweed extract
- d) Synthetic nitrogen fertiliser

**Question 15**

Which action should be carried out first when receiving new plant material on site?

- a) Removing all packaging and labels to improve the airflow and appearance
- b) Check the delivery against the order and inspect plants for pest or disease
- c) Unload the plants carefully and place them in a shaded area to prevent stress
- d) Remove any damaged foliage or flowers to improve plant appearance

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### Question 16

Which of the following terms describes the specific location and environment a plant or seed originates from?

- a) Topography
- b) Aspect
- c) Provenance
- d) Variety

### Question 17

Which of the following maintenance tasks should be carried out for 12 months after planting trees?

- a) Regular watering and monitoring plant health
- b) Apply nitrogen fertiliser and replace tree stake
- c) Pruning heavily to encourage strong new growth
- d) Allowing natural weed cover to protect soil moisture

### Question 18

Which of the following best describes an advantage of applying the results of horticultural trials?

- a) To improve plant health through the application of traditional techniques
- b) To improve plant establishment through evidence-based decisions
- c) To reduce the risk to staff through emerging risk assessment practices
- d) To reduce staff training through the use of evidence based decisions

### Question 19

Which of the following statements best describes the movement of water, from the roots to the leaves in plants?

- a) By osmosis from the cortex to the root hairs
- b) By active transport through the phloem tubes
- c) By pressure generated during photosynthesis
- d) By transpiration pull through the xylem vessels

### Question 20

How does good plant health influence a plant's resilience to pathogens?

- a) Healthy plants have stronger defence mechanisms that limit infection
- b) Healthy plants attract more insects as they have more sugar in their leaves
- c) Healthy plants become more susceptible because rapid growth weakens tissue
- d) Healthy plants are unaffected by climate change and so are more resilient

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**End of section A.**

**Please continue to Section B.**

## Section B

Answer ALL questions in this section.  
This section is worth 50 marks.

MARKS

**Question 1** (7 marks)

a) State **ONE** negative impact to wildlife which occurs when peat is extracted.

.....  
.....

1

b) State **ONE** negative impact to the climate which occurs when peat is extracted.

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.....

1

c) Name **ONE** peat-free bulk ingredient which can be used within growing media.

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1

d) State **TWO** characteristics of this bulk ingredient when used in growing media.

1: .....

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1

2: .....

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1

e) Outline the environmental footprint of this bulk ingredient.

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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 2 (8 marks)

This question relates to planting tasks and plant growth.

a) Explain **ONE** impact of planting a tree at an incorrect depth.

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2

b) Explain **THREE** reasons why the soil is firmed when planting a tree.

1: .....

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2

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2

3: .....

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2

Total Mark

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Question 3 (6 marks)

MARKS

a) Describe **ONE** symptom of frost damage to plants.

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2

b) Suggest **TWO** methods that can be used to reduce the risk of frost in a garden.

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1

2: .....

1

c) Explain what a hardiness rating measures.

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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 4 (6 marks)

a) Explain the role of a plant passport.

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2

b) Other than plant passports, describe **TWO** biosecurity measures used to protect a garden from the introduction of pests and diseases.

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2: .....

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2

Total Mark

Question 5 (8 marks)

a) Name **ONE** woody perennial.

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1

Name **ONE** herbaceous perennial.

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1

b) Compare the stems of woody and herbaceous perennials.

1: .....

2

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2: .....

2

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c) Explain how gases enter and leave the stems of woody perennials.

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2

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Total Mark

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MARKS

Question 6 (8 marks)

a) Define the term 'juvenile growth' in plants.

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2

b) Give **THREE** distinct examples of how juvenile growth differs from adult growth in plants.

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2: .....  
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2

3: .....  
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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

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MARKS

Question 7 (7 marks)

a) Name **ONE** plant nutrient which promotes the following types of growth:

Flowers .....

1

Roots .....

1

Leaves .....

1

b) Describe **ONE** symptom caused by a deficiency of iron in plants.

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2

c) Describe **ONE** plant disorder caused by a deficiency of calcium in plants.

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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

**End of section B.**

**Please continue to Section C.**

## Section C

There are **FOUR** questions in this Section. You must only answer **TWO** questions.

Please write your answers on the following pages.

Each question is worth 15 marks. This section is worth 30 marks.

**NOTE:**

You **MUST** indicate which question you are answering by placing a cross in the appropriate box on the **FRONT** of this exam paper.

please turn over.....

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name























