



RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

RHS Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and Development

UNIT 1

Monday 22nd June 2026

09:30 - 11:30

Candidate Name:

Candidate Number:

Centre Name:

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.

C 1	C 2	C 3	C 4
☐	☐	☐	☐

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:

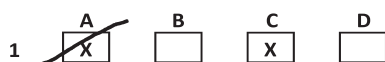
Centre Name:

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	A	B	C	D
1	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	☐	☐	☐	☐
10	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	☐	☐	☐	☐
14	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	☐	☐	☐	☐
16	☐	☐	☐	☐
17	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	☐	☐	☐	☐
19	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	☐	☐	☐	☐

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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

Which definition best describes a biennial plant?

- a) It flowers in the second year of its life cycle
- b) It flowers in the first year of its life cycle
- c) It undergoes secondary thickening in the first year of its life cycle
- d) It undergoes secondary thickening in the second year of its life cycle

Question 2

What is the term used to describe two leaves occurring at the same node on a plant stem?

- a) Alternate
- b) Opposite
- c) Deciduous
- d) Compound

Question 3

In which part of the leaf are the stomata found?

- a) The endodermis
- b) The spongy mesophyll
- c) The palisade layer
- d) The epidermis

Question 4

Which of the following occurs as a result of fertilisation in flowering plants?

- a) The ovary develops into a fruit
- b) The ovule develops into a fruit
- c) The stamen develops into a seed
- d) The pollen develops into a seed

Question 5

Where on a plant do symptoms of a mobile nutrient deficiency usually appear?

- a) Younger leaves
- b) Older leaves
- c) Younger roots
- d) Older roots

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Question 6

Which planting practice is the most effective in reducing the risk of fungal disease in garden plants?

- a) Leaving more space between plants, to improve air movement
- b) Planting plants closer together to stop the soil from drying out
- c) Planting plants deeper in the soil to stabilise their root systems
- d) Using less synthetic fertiliser, to encourage the roots to forage

Question 7

Which of the following is an example of cultural weed control?

- a) Forking
- b) Chemical herbicides
- c) Crop rotation
- d) Rotovating

Question 8

Which term describes how the UK protects plants from harmful pests and diseases?

- a) Biotic Controls
- b) Biosecurity Controls
- c) Biennial Controls
- d) Biodiversity Controls

Question 9

Which nutrient is most effective in promoting cold hardiness in plants?

- a) Potassium
- b) Phosphorus
- c) Magnesium
- d) Manganese

Question 10

What is the main purpose of natural fertiliser teas when growing plants?

- a) To return plant nutrients from deep in the soil to the rootzone
- b) To reduce water loss from leaves while the plant is transpiring
- c) To increase root pressure increasing turgidity for photosynthesis
- d) To improve the opening of the stomata when the plant is stressed

Question 11

Which statement best describes sheep's wool when used as a bulk constituent in growing media?

- a) It provides acidic growing conditions
- b) It provides high levels of soluble nutrients
- c) It provides low air-filled porosity
- d) It provides good water retention

Question 12

Eutrophication of ponds and lakes causes...

- a) A rapid increase in algal biomass (algal blooms)
- b) Clear water, due to reduced suspended material
- c) Higher dissolved oxygen concentrations in the water
- d) Increased fish populations (as nutrient levels increase)

Question 13

Why is it important to record plant failure rates during the first year after planting?

- a) To inform a full review of soil texture and structure
- b) To justify the installation of a new irrigation system
- c) To identify problems in plant establishment practices
- d) To measure the impact of plant failures on biodiversity

Question 14

What does 'F₁' indicate when shown on a seed packet?

- a) The plants will have mixed characteristics
- b) The plants will have uniform characteristics
- c) The plants will be more prone to disease
- d) The plants will produce true-to-type seeds

Question 15

When ordering plant material, what does the term semi-evergreen mean?

- a) The extent of leaf fall in the winter depends on minimum temperatures
- b) The plant is variegated, and retains its leaves throughout the year
- c) The plant is adapted to lose its lower leaves during cold conditions
- d) The extent of summer leaf fall depends on maximum temperatures

Question 16

Review the picture below:



What does the image suggest, with regards to plant quality?

- a) The plant can be propagated by root cuttings
- b) A recycled plant pot has been used
- c) The plant is low quality as it is pot bound
- d) The plant has not been irrigated correctly

Question 17

The person in the image is wearing PPE



What does PPE stand for?

- a) Primary Protective Equipment
- b) Personal Protective Equipment
- c) Practical Protective Equipment
- d) Portable Protective Equipment

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Question 18

Which of the following is considered a protected characteristic under UK law?

- a) Level of education
- b) Employment status
- c) Place of residence
- d) Religion or belief

Question 19

A garden that provides employment for local people supports the social pillar of sustainability. Why?

- a) It benefits the community by providing stable local employment
- b) It benefits the community by providing accessible green space
- c) It benefits the community by providing supportive wildlife habitats
- d) It benefits the community by providing space to reduce pollution

Question 20

Best practice describes horticultural practices which are:

- a) Professional, traditional and sustainable
- b) Professional, current and sustainable
- c) Professional, routine and sustainable
- d) Professional, well established and sustainable

End of section A.

Please continue to Section B.

Candidate name

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Centre name

Section B

MARKS

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

Question 1 (6 marks)

This question is about scientific and common plant names.

a) State the meaning of the following taxonomic terms:

i) Family
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1

ii) Genus
.....

1

b) For the plant name *Malus* 'John Downie', state the taxonomic term for each of the following:

i) *Malus*

1

ii) 'John Downie'

1

c) Explain how knowing a plant's family can help with cultivation.

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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 2 (6 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to photosynthesis and respiration.

a) What are the key differences between photosynthesis and respiration?

4

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b) Explain how temperature impacts on the rate of respiration.

2

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Total Mark

Question 3 (8 marks)

MARKS

a) Outline **TWO** advantages of chemical weed control.

1:
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2

2:
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2

b) Explain **TWO** ways that chemical weed control can harm the environment.

1:
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2

2:
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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 4 (6 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to the management of pests and pathogens.

a) Explain the meaning of ‘economic threshold’.

2

b) Outline **TWO** methods used to identify when a pest has reached the economic threshold.

1:

2

2:

2

Total Mark

Question 5 (6 marks)

MARKS

a) What is biochar?

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2

b) Describe **ONE** advantage of biochar.

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2

c) Describe **ONE** limitation of biochar.

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2

Total Mark

Question 6 (5 marks)

MARKS

a) Name **TWO** bulk constituents that are used to make peat-free ericaceous compost.

1:

1

2:

1

b) Explain how aquatic composts are formulated to allow them to be used in ponds.

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2

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c) Name **ONE** plant that requires an aquatic compost.

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1

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Total Mark

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Centre name

Question 7 (8 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to Best Practice and tree planting.

Explain **TWO** ways that fertiliser use and mulching methods have changed in recent years when planting trees.

a) Fertiliser use.

1:

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2:

2

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b) Mulching methods.

1:

2

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2:

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Total Mark

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Question 8 (5 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to receiving plant material on site.

List **FIVE** distinct indicators of poor-quality plant material.

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1

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5:
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1

End of section B.

Please continue to Section C.

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

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

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Centre name

Question C1

This question relates to Plant Science and the impact of environmental factors on water uptake.

Describe how environmental factors such as temperature, wind, humidity and soil moisture affect the movement of water through the plant.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C2

This question relates to plant health.

Explain the benefits of Garden Health Plans.

You should use named examples to support your answer.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C3

This question relates to soil types and profiles.

Discuss the purpose of soil management plans in improving and managing soil structure, organic matter and drainage.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C4

This question relates to plant specification.

Discuss the environmental advantages and limitations that should be considered when ordering plant material.

15 marks

Total Mark

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