Excluding Examiner Comments

RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

RHS Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and Development

UNIT 2

Tuesday 10th February 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:

i) The duration of this paper is **120** minutes.

ii) Write all answers legibly in the spaces provided and use black or blue ink only.

iii) Use **METRIC** measurements only.

iv) Where plant names are required, they should include genus, species and where appropriate, cultivar.

v) Please note, when the word **'distinct'** is used within a question, it means that the items have different characteristics or features.

Excluding Examiner Comments

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Excluding Examiner Comments

PLEASE DETACH THIS PAGE FROM THE BOOKLET

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

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:

	A	B	C	D
1	~~X~~		X	

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

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Section A

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

Question 1

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 primarily focuses on which area?

a) Reporting of accidents
b) Recording near misses
c) Assessing risk at work
d) Compliance with audits

Question 2

Plantings that are adapted to both summer drought and wet winters are an example of:

a) Climate control
b) Climate change
c) Climate mitigation
d) Climate resilience

Question 3

Roots that do not originate from the radicle or primary root system are described as:

a) Lenticels
b) Nodules
c) Tropisms
d) Adventitious

Question 4

In UK law any unwanted physical, verbal or nonverbal conduct is described as:

a) Discrimination
b) Harassment
c) Victimisation
d) Inclusion

Question 5

A plant which has male and female flowering parts within the same flower is described as:

a) Hermaphrodite
b) Monoecious
c) Orthodox
d) Dioecious

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 6

A ‘Ha Ha’ is a feature commonly found in which historical garden style?

a) Wild Garden style
b) Landscape Garden style
c) Renaissance Garden style
d) Modern Garden style

Question 7

Which of the following terms best describes a formal lawn?

a) Monophagous
b) Monoculture
c) Dichromatic
d) Biodiverse

Question 8

The practice of referring people to nature-based activities to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing is called:

a) Garden tourism
b) Community engagement
c) Green prescribing
d) Horticultural therapy

Question 9

Which of the following is a characteristic feature of an informal planting design?

a) Beds arranged in flowing, irregular shapes that follow natural lines
b) Beds arranged in straight lines to create strong visual order
c) Planting arranged in symmetrical blocks to emphasise balance
d) Plants set out at regular intervals to maintain even spacing

Question 10

The RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch is an example of:

a) Biodynamic principles
b) A change in phenology
c) Championing natural planting
d) A citizen science project

Question 11

How does layered planting help to support wildlife habitats in a garden?

a) By reducing the number of shaded areas for different species
b) By creating structure and micro-habitats for different species
c) By ensuring every plant receives the same amount of water
d) By increasing the frequency of pruning to maintain plant vigour

Question 12

Which **ONE** of the following is an advantage of having an inclusive culture in a horticultural workplace?

a) It helps retain a wider range of skilled employees and encourages long-term commitment
b) It reduces the need for structured staff training by assuming everyone learns in the same way
c) It guarantees that decisions are made more quickly by involving fewer people in discussions
d) It guarantees uniformity of ideas by encouraging everyone to follow identical working methods

Question 13

Which of the following best explains how specific seed adaptations support successful dispersal?

a) Seeds with a nutrient-rich endosperm disperse by water
b) Seeds with fleshy tissue rely on the wind to move them
c) Seeds with wings travel further from the parent plant
d) Seeds with smooth surfaces are rolled into ants' nests

Question 14

A herbivore is a:

a) Dispersal mechanism
b) Primary consumer
c) Secondary consumer
d) Tertiary consumer

Question 15

ONE social benefit of urban greening is:

a) It ensures efficient use of resources
b) It supports water conservation
c) It provides clear routes for access
d) It reduces anti-social behaviour

Question 16

Which of the following best describes a net positive approach to gardening?

a) Managing the garden so it gives back more to nature than it takes
b) Reducing inputs until the garden is in balance with its surroundings
c) Limiting plant choices so maintenance and resources are predictable
d) Using regular fertiliser and watering to keep plants growing strongly

Question 17

Which of the following sectors brings the most money into the UK economy from abroad?

a) Plant production
b) Fruit production
c) Garden tourism
d) Retail horticulture

Question 18

When managing Health and Safety, thorns should be considered a:

a) Risk
b) Hazard
c) Mitigation
d) Control

Question 19

Which of the following is an example of Best Practice?

a) Using seeds recommended in a recently published trial
b) Following instructions from an old but trusted publication
c) Keeping procedures flexible by avoiding written instructions
d) Choosing methods based on preference rather than evidence

Question 20

The technique used to weaken hard seed coats to overcome physical dormancy is known as:

a) Colonisation
b) Vernalisation
c) Orientation
d) Scarification

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 (6 marks)

This question relates to the three pillars of sustainability.

Explain **ONE** way in which a horticulture business can support economic sustainability.

.....

.....

.....

.....

2

Explain **ONE** way in which a horticulture business can support social equity.

.....

.....

.....

.....

2

Explain **ONE** way in which a horticulture business can support environmental protection.

.....

.....

.....

.....

2

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

MARKS

Question 2 (6 marks)

Some leaves are adapted to produce oils.

a) Explain **TWO** benefits that these oils provide to the plant.

Benefit 1 ..... **2**

.....

.....

.....

Benefit 2 ..... **2**

.....

.....

.....

b) Explain **ONE** reason (other than those mentioned above), why a horticulturist would select a plant that produces oil.

..... **2**

.....

.....

.....

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

MARKS

Question 3 (6 marks)

The management of gardens often results in the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Describe **THREE** distinct changes to horticultural practice that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1: **2**

.....

.....

.....

2: **2**

.....

.....

.....

3: **2**

.....

.....

.....

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

MARKS

Question 4 (6 marks)

a) Describe **ONE** way that a community kitchen can help reduce poverty or food insecurity.

……

……

……

……

……

…… **2**

b) Explain **ONE** way a community kitchen can help people learn new skills.

……

……

……

……

……

…… **2**

c) Explain **ONE** way a community kitchen can build social connection within the community.

……

……

……

……

……

…… **2**

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

MARKS

Question 5 (6 marks)

a) State **TWO** ways in which soil acts as an important habitat in a garden setting.

……

……

……

……

……

…… **2**

b) Explain **ONE** way a horticulturist could maintain a garden to encourage soil-dwelling wildlife.

……

……

……

……

…… **2**

c) Describe **ONE** feature that could be included in a garden design to create or enhance habitats for wildlife above ground (e.g., birds, insects, small mammals).

……

……

……

……

…… **2**

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

MARKS

Question 6 (8 marks)

This question relates to the selection of plant species with adaptations that favour wildlife.

a) Name **ONE** plant that has a distinct adaptation which favours wildlife.

..... **1**

Name this adaptation.

..... **1**

State how this adaptation benefits wildlife.

..... **1**

Name the type of wildlife benefitted.

..... **1**

b) Name **ONE** more plant that has a distinct adaptation which favours wildlife.

..... **1**

Name this adaptation.

..... **1**

State how this adaptation benefits wildlife.

..... **1**

Name the type of wildlife benefitted.

..... **1**

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

MARKS

Question 7 (6 marks)

a) Name **ONE** hedging plant:

Hedging Plant **1**

b) Explain how this plant is adapted to make it a suitable hedging plant.

..... **2**

.....

.....

.....

.....

c) State **THREE** reasons why hedges are used as garden boundaries.

1: **1**

.....

.....

2: **1**

.....

.....

3: **1**

.....

.....

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

MARKS

Question 8 (6 marks)

This question relates to the selection of plant support structures to meet the characteristics of an Arts and Crafts garden.

State **TWO** distinct types of plant support, suitable for use within an Arts and Crafts garden.

Explain how each of the above meet the design characteristics of an Arts and Crafts garden.

a) Plant Support 1: **1**

This would support the design characteristic of an Arts and Crafts garden by:

..... **2**

.....

.....

.....

b) Plant Support 2: **1**

This would support the design characteristic of an Arts and Crafts garden by:

..... **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……

Question C1

This question has **TWO** parts.

Discuss the adaptations that **NAMED** plants use to climb.

Explain the horticultural benefits these plants can bring to a garden.

15 marks

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Question C2

Discuss the value of ornamental horticulture.

15 marks

Total Mark

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Question C3

Discuss the environmental and biodiversity impacts of short-term plantings.

15 marks

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Question C4

This question relates to the impact of climate change on existing garden plantings.

Predict the impact of temperature and humidity changes on existing garden plantings.

15 marks

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name | Candidate number | Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

©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