



RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

## RHS Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and Development

### UNIT 2

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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.
- Where a question requires a specific number of answers, only the first answers given will be marked regardless of the number of answers offered.
- Please note, when the word '**distinct**' is used within a question, it means that the items have different characteristics or features.

**Excluding Examiner Comments**

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

Candidate Name: .....

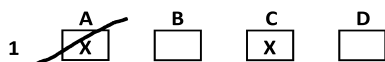
Centre Name: .....

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:



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"/>
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
9	<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

The study of how weather and climate change affect the timing of plant and animal life cycles is?

- a) Phenology
- b) Pedagogy
- c) Physiology
- d) Paleontology

### Question 2

Geotropism is growth in response to which stimulus?

- a) Touch
- b) Minerals
- c) Gravity
- d) Light

### Question 3

Alpine plants survive harsh winters due to which adaptation?

- a) Sunken stomata
- b) Self pollination
- c) Low growth
- d) Deep roots

### Question 4

Trials within horticulture to ascertain best practice...

- a) must be approved by the Horticultural Trade Association
- b) are regulated by Kew Science to ensure accuracy
- c) must be logged with 'Which?' group for consumer fairness
- d) can be formal or informal trials by any organisation

### Question 5

Where will information be found regarding the correct servicing and maintenance of PPE?

- a) In a Risk Assessment folder
- b) In the manufacturer's instructions
- c) On a Health and Safety law poster
- d) In the COSHH database

### Question 6

The picture below is an example of a garden from what period?



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

### Question 7

Plants that are used for traditional spring bedding schemes are typically:

- a) perennials
- b) stoloniferous
- c) annuals
- d) rhizomatous

### Question 8

Sustainably managed edible landscapes often minimise the disturbance of the soil. What is the primary reason for this?

- a) To enable sowing of early crops
- b) To increase the soil temperature
- c) To sustain the soil structure
- d) To reduce the work involved

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**Question 9**

Which of the following features are found in formal gardens?

- a) Flowering hedges
- b) Straight lines
- c) Planted ponds
- d) Irregular shapes

**Question 10**

Fastigate trees are:

- a) horizontal
- b) pyramidal
- c) vertical
- d) prostrate

**Question 11**

What is the meaning of 'legacy peat'?

- a) Peat extracted from legacy disused bogs
- b) Peat sold at a reduced price as old stock
- c) Peat that is already in a production system
- d) Peat recycled from soft fruit production

**Question 12**

A co-worker has been tasked with disinfecting an ornamental pool display in a community garden. What legislation must they comply with?

- a) The Working at Height Regulations 2005
- b) Control of Substances Hazardous to Health 2002 (COSHH)
- c) Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 as amended
- d) The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005

**Question 13**

A recent survey of Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the horticulture industry aimed to help attract new people into horticulture (*Pro Landscaper*, 25 January 2024)

Which of the following approaches could support this initiative?

- a) Ignoring the importance of EDI in the industry
- b) Promoting awareness and changing the culture around EDI
- c) Focusing on traditional recruitment methods and techniques
- d) Limiting opportunities for underrepresented groups

**Question 14**

In a garden food web, are cinnabar moths considered to be?

- a) Acariphagous organisms
- b) Polyphagous organisms
- c) Tertiary consumers
- d) Primary consumers

**Question 15**

Which of the following would be found in a garden's biodiversity action plan?

- a) Incorporation of standing deadwood
- b) Avoiding the creation of non-priority habitats
- c) Replacing non-native plants with native plants
- d) Transition to using organic and natural pesticides

**Question 16**

Which of the following is a primary benefit of community horticulture for individuals with mental health challenges?

- a) It guarantees a complete cure for mental illnesses.
- b) It significantly improves physical strength and endurance.
- c) It contributes towards positive mental health and wellbeing
- d) It eliminates the need for traditional psychological therapies.

**Question 17**

In 2023 the total spend attributable to parks and gardens from international and domestic tourism was:

- a) £4.2 million
- b) £420 million
- c) £42 million
- d) £4.2 billion

**Question 18**

The Equality Act 2010 makes it illegal to select job applicants based on their?

- a) Belief
- b) Attitude
- c) Experience
- d) Competency



**Question 19**

What is a key benefit of using permeable paving?

- a) It reduces groundwater recharge
- b) It increases surface water runoff
- c) It allows water to infiltrate the ground
- d) It increases soil erosion

**Question 20**

A business which prioritises benefit to people or planet and uses the majority of any profit to further their mission is known as a?

- a) Social Enterprise
- b) Public Limited Company
- c) Limited Liability Company
- d) General Partnership

**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 plant adaptations.

Name **THREE** flower adaptations which encourage cross-pollination over self-pollination.

Provide a relevant **NAMED** plant example for each adaptation.

Adaptation 1:

.....

Named Plant example:

.....

Adaptation 2:

.....

Named Plant example:

.....

Adaptation 3:

.....

Named Plant example:

.....

1

1

1

1

1

1

Total Mark

**Question 2** (5 marks)

This question relates to seed adaptations.

State **TWO** characteristics displayed by orthodox seeds which allow them to be stored.

Characteristic 1 .....

**1**

Characteristic 2 .....

**1**

Explain why horticulturists might wash orthodox seeds prior to storage:

**2**

.....

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Name **ONE** plant which produces orthodox seeds that require washing:

**1**

.....

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 3 (6 marks)

MARKS

You have been asked if you can create a culinary herb garden for a local school.

Name **FOUR** distinct herbs that could be included within the garden:

- 1 .....  
2 .....  
3 .....  
4 .....

1  
1  
1  
1

For **ONE** of these herbs named above, state **TWO** site requirements:

- Herb: .....  
Requirement 1 .....  
.....  
Requirement 2 .....  
.....

1  
  
1

Total Mark

MARKS

**Question 4** (8 marks)

This question relates to a north facing border with existing deciduous trees which is to be planted.

Name **TWO** distinct shrubs suitable for this site:

Shrub 1 .....

1

Shrub 2 .....

1

Name **TWO** distinct herbaceous perennials for this site:

Herbaceous perennial 1 .....

1

.....

1

Herbaceous perennial 2 .....

With reference to your knowledge of plant adaptations, justify your selection of these plants:

Justification 1 .....

2

.....

.....

Justification 2 .....

2

.....

.....

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

MARKS

Question 5 (6 marks)

This question focuses on selecting plants based upon characteristics/adaptations which make them suitable for a garden resilient to climate change.

Name **ONE** plant which cools its immediate environment

Plant name: .....

1

Explain the characteristic which enables cooling to occur:

.....  
.....  
.....

2

Name **ONE** plant which can tolerate waterlogged soils:

Plant name: .....

1

Explain the characteristic which enables tolerance of waterlogged soils

.....  
.....  
.....

2

Total Mark

**Question 6** (8 marks)

This question relates to citizen science projects and gardens.

Name **TWO** distinct examples of national citizen science projects which relate to wildlife:

Example 1: .....

**1**

Example 2:.....

**1**

State **ONE** type of information that **EACH** project will record:

Project 1: .....

**1**

Project 2: .....

**1**

Explain **TWO** impacts that citizen science projects can have on the management of gardens:

Impact 1:

.....

.....

.....

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**2**

Impact 2:

.....

.....

.....

.....

**2**

Total Mark

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**Question 7** (5 marks)

The image below shows the Jarman Pocket Park, Manchester Art Gallery. Developed by volunteers from Pride in Ageing, the LGBT Foundation's programme for ageing people.



Image used with the kind permission of Manchester Art Gallery. Photograph: Andrew Brooks

Outline **THREE** social benefits of a pocket park such as the one shown in the photograph above:

Benefit 1 .....

.....  
.....  
.....

Benefit 2 .....

.....  
.....  
.....

Benefit 3 .....

.....  
.....  
.....

1

1

1

Total Mark

Question 7 Continued:

Explain how the pocket park could support equality and diversity.

2

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Total Mark

## Excluding Examiner Comments

### Question 8 (6 marks)

**MARKS**

Explain **THREE** ways that trees contribute to a local economy:

6

Total Mark

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**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

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Question C1

This question relates to Plant Adaptations and Health and Safety.

Using **NAMED** plant examples, describe the risks that plant adaptations can pose to horticulturists. Explain how these risks can be mitigated when carrying out horticultural tasks.

15 marks

Total Mark
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Question C2

This question relates to Planting Styles, their characteristics and how they influence gardening today.  
Compare and contrast the planting styles of Gertude Jekyll and Piet Oudolf.

15 marks

Total Mark

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## Excluding Examiner Comments

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Question C3

“Heritage gardens can foster community engagement.”

Discuss the role of heritage gardens with reference to the above statement.

15 marks

Total Mark
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## Excluding Examiner Comments

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## Excluding Examiner Comments

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### Question C4

This question relates to plants and biodiversity, and the creation of habitat.

A local authority wants to trial a new management strategy for the maintenance of grass verges. The aim is to boost biodiversity by moving from the verge shown in image 1, to that shown in image 2.

Explain how their approach to maintenance would need to change.

Evaluate the benefits to both wildlife and the local community.

**Image 1**



**Image 2**



**15 Marks**

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