



RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

RHS Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and Development

UNIT 2

Tuesday 23rd 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 2

Candidate Name:

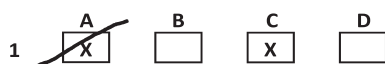
Centre Name:

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	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

What is a bud called that develops on a taproot?

- a) Irregular
- b) Adventitious
- c) Recalcitrant
- d) Dioecious

Question 2

Which features are characteristic of wind pollinated plants?

- a) Scented flowers with reduced petals
- b) Bright coloured petals and sticky pollen
- c) Protruding stamen with plentiful pollen
- d) Feathery stigmas and nectar production

Question 3

Which of the following is an advantage of seed dormancy?

- a) It allows seeds to delay germination until conditions are favourable
- b) It allows seeds to develop, grow and flower more uniformly
- c) It allows seeds to survive being physically damaged by animals
- d) It allows seeds to be dispersed further away from the parent plant

Question 4

Which growth habit is a common adaptation of alpine plants to their natural environment?

- a) Small thorns to protect from damage from grazing animals
- b) Aerenchyma cells in leaves to protect them from cold and frost
- c) Stem tendrils to allow anchorage in scree and rock fragments
- d) Small leaves that grow low to the ground to protect from wind

Question 5

Planting in even numbers is often associated with formal plantings. Why?

- a) It makes it easier to create dichromatic schemes
- b) It makes it easier to create a symmetrical layout
- c) It makes it easier to create free flowing plantings
- d) It makes it easier to create irregular planted areas

Candidate name

Candidate number

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Question 6

Which of the following plant adaptations would make a plant most suitable for use in an Arts and Crafts garden?

- a) Runner
- b) Stolon
- c) Twining stems
- d) Succulent leaves

Question 7

What is a potager?

- a) An ornamental garden managed for food production
- b) A forest garden managed using biodynamic methods
- c) An edible hedge managed by a community group
- d) A food production area managed on organic principles

Question 8

When evaluating the characteristics of plant species for use in traditional summer bedding it is important to consider:

- a) The impacts of the plants on mindfulness
- b) The biodiversity value provided by the plants
- c) The drought resistance of the plants
- d) The ability of plants to self-seed freely

Question 9

A key purpose of biodiversity policies is to:

- a) Provide protection of priority species and priority habitats
- b) Reduce the negative environmental impact of horticulture
- c) Develop effective Integrated Pest Management solutions
- d) Engage the public in a range of citizen science projects

Question 10

Which of the following is a key impact of higher climatic temperatures on plants?

- a) They increase plant resistance to new pests and diseases
- b) They increase leaf variegation, which improves plant vigour
- c) They increase root growth and nutrient uptake from soils
- d) They increase transpiration rates, which can lead to wilting

Question 11

Why is provenance an important horticultural concept?

- a) It indicates the geographical origin of the plant material
- b) It determines the final size and shape of the plant at maturity
- c) It indicates the size of leaves to maximise photosynthesis
- d) It determines the development of stem tendrils in climbers

Question 12

What is a natural strip of land that connects wildlife populations called?

- a) Urban greening
- b) Ecological niche
- c) Habitat corridor
- d) Habitat highway

Question 13

Which activity is most commonly associated with the arboriculture sector of the horticulture industry?

- a) Selling young trees for planting schemes
- b) Managing woodlands for biodiversity
- c) Caring for fruit trees in orchards
- d) Pruning and tree safety inspections

Question 14

What is the primary role of therapeutic horticulture?

- a) To support social interaction, inclusion and communities
- b) To improve physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing
- c) To develop practical skills, confidence and employability
- d) To encourage learning, achievement and development

Question 15

Ecosystem services are the benefits that humans gain from the environment.

Which of the following is an example of a regulating ecosystem service?

- a) Pollination of crops by insects
- b) Timber used for building fences
- c) Mindfulness from gardening
- d) Increased yield from fertilisers

Question 16

Which of the following terms is used in a risk assessment for a pruning saw?

- a) Unsafe
- b) Dangerous
- c) Careless
- d) Hazard

Question 17

Which of the following items of clothing would be regarded as PPE when working in a garden?

- a) Walking boots
- b) Baseball cap
- c) Protective trousers
- d) A branded hoodie

Question 18

What is a likely implication of poor plant selection in a garden?

- a) Increased plant stress, and higher maintenance requirements
- b) Improved soil health, and reduced need for irrigation
- c) Reduced competition, and increased visual impact
- d) Lower susceptibility to pests, and increased ecosystem services

Question 19

Community gardening supports social equity by:

- a) Protecting wildlife habitats, and creating garden food webs
- b) Creating high quality visitor experiences, to develop tourism
- c) Providing access to green spaces, and improving community wellbeing
- d) Increasing plant production, and providing fundraising opportunities

Question 20

Which term describes horticultural practices that have been tested and adopted following research?

- a) Best Practice
- b) Risk Assessed
- c) Equality and Diversity
- d) Social and Therapeutic

End of section A.

Please continue to Section B.

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Section B

MARKS

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

Question 1 (8 marks)

This question is about leaf adaptations.

a) Define the term 'variegated leaf'.

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2

b) Name **TWO** distinct examples of plants that have variegated leaves.

1:

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2:

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2

c) Explain **ONE** distinct advantage and **ONE** distinct disadvantage to the plant of having variegated leaves.

Advantage:

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2

Disadvantage:

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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 2 (8 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to stem and root adaptations.

a) i) Define the term 'stem tuber'.

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2

ii) Name **ONE** plant that grows from a 'stem tuber'.

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1

iii) State **ONE** distinct advantage that 'stem tubers' offer plants.

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1

b) i) Define the term 'root tuber'.

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2

ii) Name **ONE** plant that grows from a 'root tuber'.

.....

1

iii) State **ONE** distinct disadvantage that 'root tubers' offer plants.

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1

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 3 (6 marks)

MARKS

Describe **THREE** distinct benefits to physical health, that are achieved through gardening.

1:
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2

Total Mark

Question 4 (6 marks)

Explain **THREE** ways soil carbon is managed in a garden.

1:
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MARKS

2

2

2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 5 (6 marks)

This question relates to creating habitats.

Describe **THREE** ways a garden can be designed to provide shelter for wildlife during winter.

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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 6 (6 marks)

MARKS

a) Name **TWO** distinct invertebrates that can be found within a garden.

1:

1

2:

1

b) Explain **TWO** distinct ways to ensure the correct identification of wildlife in a garden.

1:

2

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Total Mark

Question 7 (5 marks)

MARKS

This question is about plant associations.

a) State the meaning of the term ‘form’.

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b) Explain how the height and form of **TWO** named plants can be used to create an effective plant association.

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4

Total Mark

Question 8 (5 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to the historic garden style known as a ‘Wild Garden’.

a) Explain **TWO** design characteristics of this garden style.

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2

2:

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2

b) Name **ONE** feature that does not conform to this garden style.

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1

Total Mark

End of section B.

Please continue to Section C.

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

Candidate number

Centre name

Question C1

Explain how a knowledge of plant adaptations helps you choose plants that grow well together in an informal garden.

In your answer, you should refer to leaf, stem and growth habit adaptations.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C2

Discuss how horizontal planes and vertical lines enhance the structure and appearance of a garden.

Explain how **NAMED** plants can be used to create these features.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C3

A community allotment wishes to manage its horticultural activities sustainably.
Describe sustainable practices it can undertake. Evaluate which are likely to be most effective.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C4

This question relates to plants and biodiversity.
Discuss how horticulturists can create food webs within gardens.

15 marks

Total Mark

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