



RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

RHS Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and Development

UNIT 2

Tuesday 14th October 2025

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
<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

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

PLEASE DETACH THIS PAGE FROM THE BOOKLET

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

Candidate Name:

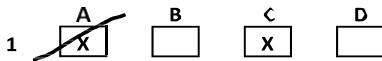
Centre Name:

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:



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"/>
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

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

What is the main aim of Biodiversity Action Plans, (which are now actioned under the UK Biodiversity Framework)?

- a) To give the UK full control over its biodiversity
- b) To help the UK meet its international biodiversity commitments
- c) To make biodiversity laws the same in all parts of the United Kingdom
- d) To meet international targets for equality and human rights

Question 2

Habitat corridors should:

- a) provide a connection between separated habitats
- b) be one metre wide and only used in rural areas
- c) be fenced to protect wildlife from predators
- d) have a trail camera installed to monitor species diversity

Question 3

How can Citizen Science help manage biodiversity in gardens?

- a) By removing invasive species from nature reserves
- b) By allowing people to choose which species are protected by law
- c) By helping gardeners enforce wildlife conservation rules and regulations
- d) By encouraging people to increase biodiversity in their garden

Question 4

In a food chain, secondary consumers are:

- a) Animals that eat herbivores
- b) Herbivores that eat a range of plants
- c) Carnivores that eat other carnivores
- d) Algae that photosynthesise in ponds

Question 5

Which of the following objectives is central to the work of botanic gardens?

- a) Preserving old buildings and garden features
- b) Encouraging different communities to live together
- c) Sharing plant knowledge with the public
- d) Providing spaces for leisure and relaxation

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 6

Why are swales often used in urban landscapes?

- a) To help reduce air pollution
- b) To cool the local temperature
- c) To reduce the risk of flooding
- d) To help to block out traffic noise

Question 7

Many horticulture businesses are classed as social enterprises. Why is this?

- a) Because they are registered charities and cannot trade for profit
- b) Because they are not subject to normal market competition
- c) Because they cannot legally pay staff and so rely on social volunteers
- d) Because they support a range of social and environmental aims

Question 8

How can community gardens help people to grow their own food in areas of high social deprivation?

- a) By focusing on perennial planting to eliminate the need for seasonal work
- b) By prioritising pollinator-friendly crops to enhance the local biodiversity
- c) By providing shared spaces, tools, and support to grow food locally
- d) By creating areas for relaxation and wellbeing to improve mental health

Question 9



The above safety sign is a:

- a) Mandatory sign
- b) Prohibition sign
- c) Information sign
- d) Hazard sign

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 10

Which of the following is an ecosystem service provided by hirsute leaves?

- a) Reflecting sunlight to reduce transpiration
- b) Cleaning air by trapping particulates
- c) Providing a barrier to reduce herbivory
- d) Limiting respiration to reduce CO₂ levels

Question 11

In a horticultural workplace, which action best supports respect, fairness, and dignity?

- a) Guaranteeing an annual incremental pay rise for all employees
- b) Allowing staff to book and take annual leave whenever they choose
- c) Giving priority to staff who have worked for the company the longest
- d) Ensuring transparent and fair recruitment and promotion processes

Question 12

Corms are a type of stem adaptation. What is their main function?

- a) To store carbohydrates
- b) To prevent roots from rotting
- c) To deter herbivory
- d) To retain moisture

Question 13

What is the main piece of legislation covering health and safety in the workplace?

- a) Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- b) Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations
- c) Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- d) Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Question 14

What is a plant called if it has separate male and female flowers on the same plant?

- a) Dioecious
- b) Monocotyledonous
- c) Monoecious
- d) Eudicotyledonous

Question 15

Which of the following features is typical of an informal garden style?

- a) A wide range of colours in the planting
- b) Planting in even numbers
- c) Straight paths and borders
- d) Tightly clipped hedges in geometric shapes

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 16

Which plant tissue helps aquatic plants stay buoyant?

- a) Parenchyma
- b) Aerenchyma
- c) Sclerenchyma
- d) Collenchyma

Question 17

The concept of places to enjoy and frame views is typical of which garden style?

- a) Arts and Crafts
- b) Renaissance
- c) Picturesque
- d) Gardenesque

Question 18

A symmetrical, reflective pond with a geometric shape is most likely to be found in which garden style?

- a) Formal garden
- b) Forest garden
- c) Informal garden
- d) Potager garden

Question 19

Which growing system used in edible landscapes takes a spiritual, ecological, and regenerative approach to food and farming?

- a) Traditional potager
- b) Traditional allotment
- c) Biodynamic growing
- d) Organic growing

Question 20

Which of the following methods of top fruit training creates horizontal planes?

- a) Cordon
- b) Fan
- c) Stepover
- d) Standard

End of section A.

Please continue to Section B.

Section B

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

Question 1 (7 marks)

Name **TWO** distinct grasses commonly used in ornamental displays.

Grass 1:

1

Grass 2:

1

Name the root system associated with these plants.

.....

1

Explain **ONE** advantage this root system provides to the plant.

.....

2

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Describe how the root system associated with grasses can prevent soil erosion.

.....

2

.....

.....

.....

.....

Total Mark

Question 2 (6 marks)

MARKS

Name **TWO** distinct plants that produce fats or oils within their seeds.

Plant 1:

1

Plant 2:

1

Explain **ONE** advantage to plants that produce fats or oils within their seeds.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2

Seeds containing fats and oils are popular in wild bird food mixes.

Explain **ONE** other way that seeds containing fats and oils can assist biodiversity in a garden.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Total Mark

Question 3 (7 marks)

MARKS

Name **THREE** key characteristics of formal planting styles.

Characteristic 1:

1

Characteristic 2:

1

Characteristic 3:

1

Describe **TWO** distinct ecosystem services that formal lawns provide.

Service 1:

2

.....

.....

.....

.....

Service 2:

2

.....

.....

.....

.....

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 4 (6 marks)

Define the term allotment.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Describe **TWO** ways in which having an allotment can benefit people's wellbeing.

Benefit 1:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Benefit 2:

.....

.....

.....

.....

MARKS

2

2

2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 5 (8 marks)

Describe **FOUR** key design characteristics of the Gardenesque style of historical garden design.

Characteristic 1:

.....

.....

.....

Characteristic 2:

.....

.....

.....

Characteristic 3:

.....

.....

.....

Characteristic 4:

.....

.....

.....

MARKS

2

2

2

2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 6 (8 marks)

Describe **FOUR** distinct ways that the garden maintenance and landscaping sector supports the UK economy.

1

.....

.....

.....

.....

2

.....

.....

.....

.....

3

.....

.....

.....

.....

4

.....

.....

.....

.....

MARKS

2

2

2

2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

MARKS

Question 7 (8 marks)

A recent magazine article states 'One opportunity of gardening in a changing climate is the introduction of more and new varieties of plants and crops to the UK'

Discuss **ONE** horticultural impact of the above statement.

.....

.....

2

It has been suggested that, due to climate change, gardening trends will move from overly manicured gardens towards more wildlife friendly gardens.

How will this impact on garden maintenance?

Impact 1:

.....

.....

.....

2

Impact 2:

.....

.....

.....

2

An increase in temperature in the South of the UK may lead to the loss of native species.

Suggest **ONE** action that can be taken to preserve these species.

.....

.....

.....

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

Question C1

Arts and Crafts gardens often include features such as hedging, vertical accents, and richly planted borders.

Using **NAMED** plant examples, explain how adaptations of leaves, stems, flowers, and growth habit can influence the selection of plants for an Arts and Crafts garden.

In your answer, justify how your chosen plant examples reflect the design principles of the Arts and Crafts style.

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 how historic garden styles have impacted on biodiversity.

Your answer should include distinct examples.

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

A Health and Wellbeing Clinic wants to create a peaceful outdoor space for mindfulness.

Describe and justify a range of features you would include in the garden.

Suggest and justify a selection of plants suitable for the 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 C4

Describe how wildlife habitats can be maintained in a private garden while also managing health and safety risks.

In your answer, include examples of specific habitats, safe working practices and risk-reduction measures.

15 marks

Total Mark

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Excluding Examiner Comments

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.
Charity Registration Number: 222879/SC038262

