



RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

**RHS Level 3 Certificate in Plant Growth, Garden Planning
and Applied Propagation**

UNIT 1

Wednesday 11th 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
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Excluding Examiner Comments

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

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RHS Level 3 Certificate in Plant Growth, Garden Planning and Applied Propagation - UNIT 1

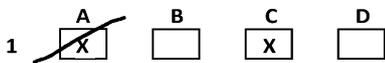
Candidate Name: Centre Name:

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	Answer			
	A	B	C	D
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Candidate name

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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

In a garden research project, which source best verifies the historic layout?

- a) Online visitor feedback
- b) Online heritage forum
- c) Original estate drawings
- d) Original plant catalogues

Question 2

What was the main purpose of public gardens in 19-century Britain?

- a) Displays of wealth for the nobility
- b) Public health and recreation in cities
- c) Research and conservation of plants
- d) Provision of mindfulness and biodiversity

Question 3

Which influence most directly encouraged the development of formal geometric garden style in 17th-century Britain?

- a) French royal gardens and European court culture
- b) The rise of engineering in the Industrial Revolution
- c) Public parks movement and Victorian culture and values
- d) The use of enclosing walls to control wilderness in gardens

Question 4

Which statement best explains the value of horticultural heritage to society?

- a) It limits public access to protect rare and historic plant species
- b) It showcases innovation in garden design and technology
- c) It supports conservation and community through shared identity
- d) It demonstrates the importance of reliable information sources

Question 5

Victorian plant hunters and explorers contributed to British gardens by:

- a) Collecting and introducing new ornamental and edible species
- b) Acquiring designs for steam-based greenhouse heating systems
- c) Discovering synthetic fertilisers, which are now widely used
- d) Writing the first legal frameworks for biodiversity offsetting

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Question 6

Which guide provides rules and recommendations for naming plants in cultivation?

- a) The International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi and Plants
- b) The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants
- c) The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Plants of the World Online
- d) The International Dendrology Society, Trees and Shrubs online

Question 7

Why are taxonomic principles important in the management of a National Plant Collection®?

- a) They enable collection holders to measure climate resilience in plants
- b) They help collection holders manage the process of micropropagation
- c) They allow collection holders to confirm the true identity of their plants
- d) They ensure plants are grown under identical environmental conditions

Question 8

Which of the following best describes the benefit of plant records?

- a) They allow evidence based decision making in plant propagation
- b) They can track the net positive attributes of living collections
- c) They replace risk assessments when handling toxic plant material
- d) They reduce costs by replacing the need for plant labelling

Question 9

Which of the following best reflects a garden supervisor's duty under Health and Safety legislation when maintaining features in a heritage garden?

- a) Rely on visitor signage to reduce risk when staff work on fragile structures
- b) Ensuring safe systems of work when staff maintain fragile historic structures
- c) Rely on heritage value to justify the use of heritage tools and equipment
- d) Enable experienced craftspeople to determine their own safety protocols

Question 10

The regulations that prevent pest and disease spread through inspection, certification, and documentation are called?

- a) Phytosanitary Controls
- b) Procurement Protocols
- c) Biodiversity Protocols
- d) CITES Trade Controls

Question 11

When combining plants in a border, the principle of texture is achieved through:

- a) The use of plant spacings and height relationships to generate visual interest
- b) Repetition of geometric shapes to create a strong sense of visual rhythm
- c) Variation in foliage density and leaf size, to create contrast and visual interest
- d) Alignment of flower colour to apply harmony and so create visual balance

Question 12

Which of the following best describes an impact of heritage on design within a historic garden?

- a) Heritage is retained in signage and storytelling rather than physical design
- b) Design and planting schemes are reinterpreted to maintain historic character
- c) Plantings are enhanced by the application of current sustainability principles
- d) Period features are replaced with organic elements to enhance biodiversity

Question 13

Why is it important to understand a plants cultivation requirements when planning plant maintenance?

- a) They would inform the scheduling of pruning, feeding, and watering
- b) They would inform the scarification needs of seeds in plant propagation
- c) They ensure that maintenance tasks are informed by COSHH regulations
- d) They would ensure full compliance with all relevant plant health regulations

Question 14

This question relates to developing maintenance schedules.

Which situation best demonstrates the principle of Best Practice being supported by fact-based decision making?

- a) Planning seasonal tasks to coincide with staff and volunteer availability
- b) Eliminating fertiliser applications to meet a new sustainability strategy
- c) Continuing with last year's schedule because it met budget targets
- d) Benchmarking plant performance data before adjusting technique and timing

Question 15

Which of the following most accurately describes the key components of an annual propagation plan?

- a) Moisture maintenance, health observations and biosecurity
- b) Seed treatment, sowing media and sowing depth
- c) Propagation technique, rooting temperature and spacing
- d) Quantities required, space available, labour requirement

Question 16

In seed propagation, a gibberellin soak is used primarily to:

- a) Disinfect seed surfaces
- b) Promote seed hardiness
- c) Initiate seed germination
- d) Determine seed viability

Question 17

Which action should be considered first when managing risk in a propagation unit?

- a) Installing warning signs and safety barriers around the hazard
- b) Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for all staff
- c) Eliminating the hazard so that exposure is no longer possible
- d) Rotating staff so that exposure time to the hazard is reduced

Question 18

Which of the following best demonstrates a professional approach to adopting research findings in a horticultural setting?

- a) Review published evidence and evaluate site relevance before adoption
- b) Review staff opinions when making changes to established practice
- c) Adopt new practices only when other gardens have adopted them
- d) Adopt established practices only when the board of trustees dictate this

Question 19

Which of the following best describes the advantages of maintaining inclusive cultures within a horticultural organisation?

- a) They ensure that new staff are able to fit into the team culture
- b) They help to improve teamwork, and retain skilled employees
- c) They enable organisations to maintain traditional ways of working
- d) They reduce the need for staff training and development

Question 20

Which of the following best demonstrates how horticulture contributes to the three pillars of sustainability?

Creating planting schemes that:

- a) Support biodiversity, provide local employment, and use resources efficiently
- b) Support native plants, provide volunteer engagement, and delight visitors
- c) Support mental wellbeing, provide moments of calm, and show design quality
- d) Support cost reduction, provide visual impact, and respect heritage values

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 key influences on the development of horticultural space.

Explain **THREE** ways in which political or cultural influences have shaped horticultural styles in Britain since the 17th-century.

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Total Mark

Candidate name

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MARKS

Question 2 (6 marks)

This question relates to the impact of horticultural heritage on garden management.

Discuss **THREE** ways that conservation management plans guide decision-making in historic gardens.

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Candidate number

Centre name

MARKS

Question 3 (8 marks)

This question relates to plant information sources.

Describe **FOUR** key features that make plant information sources reliable to the professional horticulturist?

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Centre name

MARKS

Question 4 (6 marks)

This question relates to selecting plants for a purpose.

Explain **THREE** factors that should be considered when selecting plants for climate resilience.

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Question 5 (8 marks)

This question relates to the facilities and equipment required in a plant propagation unit.

Explain **FOUR** key factors that must be considered when selecting environmental monitoring and control equipment for a plant propagation unit.

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Total Mark

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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

