



RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

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

UNIT 1

Wednesday 24th 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 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:

1

A
X

B

C
X

D

Question	Answer			
	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

Which type of horticultural space expanded significantly in the 19th century?

- a) Physic gardens
- b) Monastic gardens
- c) Public parks
- d) Modernist gardens

Question 2

Which factor most strongly influenced plant introductions to Britain?

- a) Changes in the climate
- b) Exploration and trade
- c) Expression of National identity
- d) Development of urban green space

Question 3

Which of the following is a key value of horticultural heritage to society?

- a) Supporting food security through heritage techniques
- b) Upholding law and order through safe working
- c) Protecting native plant species through biodiversity
- d) Celebrating national identity and sense of place

Question 4

Which of the following best explains the role of interpretation in engaging visitors within horticultural heritage sites?

- a) To communicate the meaning and significance of a site to visitors
- b) To communicate the conservation management plan to visitors
- c) To communicate the economic benefit of plant collections to visitors
- d) To communicate the principles of equality and diversity to visitors

Question 5

Which action should a supervisor take to apply effective risk management in a propagation facility where horticultural knives are in regular use?

- a) Eliminate most hazards through the writing of risk assessments
- b) Eliminate most risks through the writing of risk assessments
- c) Review risk assessments to ensure technical horticultural language is used
- d) Review risk assessments to make sure they reflect actual working practices

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Question 6

Why is stock plant management important in plant propagation?

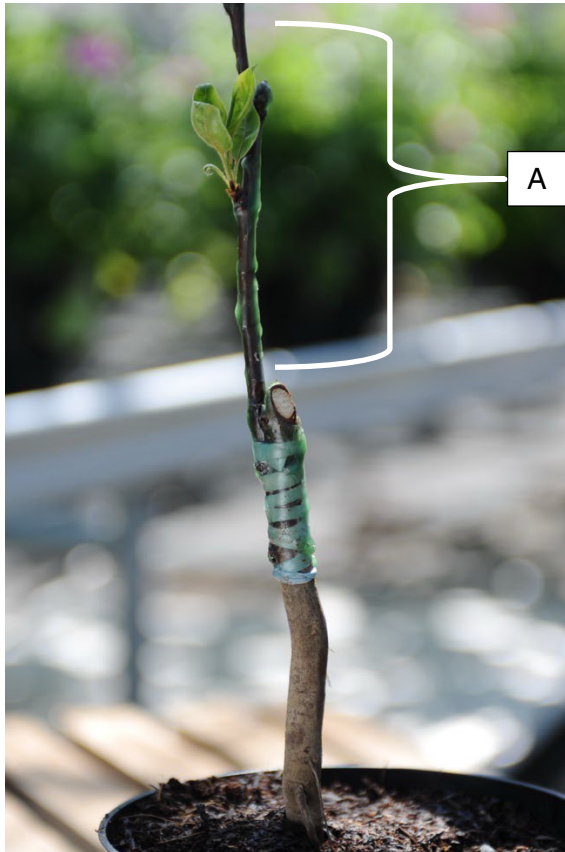
- a) To ensure genetic variation
- b) To ensure climate resilience
- c) To improve rooting ratios
- d) To improve flowering performance

Question 7

What is the main reason that germination times are measured in propagation units?

- a) To plan production schedules
- b) To select suitable module trays
- c) To determine seed dormancy types
- d) To inform Gibberellin usage rate

Question 8



When grafting, the part of the plant labelled 'A' is the:

- a) Sucker
- b) Scion
- c) Air layer
- d) Chip bud

Candidate name

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Question 9



What is the primary purpose of the clear polythene sheet shown in the image above?

- a) To increase relative humidity around the propagules
- b) To reduce relative humidity around the propagules
- c) To reduce light levels reaching the propagule leaves
- d) To increase light levels reaching the propagule leaves

Question 10

Which of the following best illustrates horticulture being 'net positive'?

Reducing environmental impacts:

- a) Through maintaining existing social and economic conditions
- b) Through increased labour efficiency using volunteers
- c) While substituting biodiverse habitats with solar panels
- d) While delivering measured biodiversity and social gains

Question 11

Why is wild-collected plant material valued in horticulture?

- a) It ensures uniform characteristics
- b) It enhances ornamental variation
- c) It increases genetic diversity
- d) It avoids biosecurity regulation

Candidate name

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Question 12

Which agreement regulates the international trade in endangered plants?

- a) The Wildlife and Countryside Act
- b) The Environment Act
- c) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
- d) Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Question 13

Why are digital plant record systems increasingly used in plant collection management?

- a) They are more sustainable than plant labels
- b) They allow for searchable records that can be shared
- c) They guarantee a high level of taxonomic accuracy
- d) They ensure compliance with plant passporting legislation

Question 14

What is a main benefit of a plant record?

- a) To provide accurate long-term records of individual plants
- b) To support Integrated Pest Management in living collections
- c) To ensure historical accuracy of specialist plant collections
- d) To ensure that the right plant is growing in the right place

Question 15

Which of the following statements most closely follows the principles of Best Practice?

- a) Selecting plants based on focus groups and visitor surveys
- b) Selecting plants based on personal recommendations
- c) Selecting plants based on articles in gardening magazines
- d) Selecting plants based on replicated trials held at a garden

Question 16

Which factor is usually a priority when selecting plants for heritage sites?

- a) That the plants are resilient to the predicted future climate
- b) That plants selected are matched to the historical period
- c) That the plants are propagated and grown in the UK
- d) That the plants were originally sourced from the British Empire

Question 17

Why is supplier reputation important in horticultural plant procurement?

- a) To ensure plants supplied are healthy, reliable, and as specified
- b) To save money by removing the requirement for plant quarantine
- c) To receive Integrated Pest Management records on delivery
- d) To ensure that there is extension growth for plant propagation

Question 18

Which factor has the greatest influence on tasks being included in a maintenance schedule?

- a) The number of visitors to the garden
- b) The design characteristics of the area
- c) The cultivation requirements of plants
- d) The size and the scale of the planting

Question 19

Why is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 particularly important in professional horticultural practice?

- a) It ensures horticultural work is carried out efficiently and on schedule
- b) It places a legal duty on employers and employees to manage safety
- c) It sets design standards that inform safe public access to gardens
- d) It ensures that employers are solely responsible for health and safety

Question 20

Which action best supports inclusive practice in horticultural workplaces?

- a) Making reasonable adjustments
- b) Assigning tasks based on seniority
- c) Treating all staff identically
- d) Avoiding formal policies

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 (4 marks)

This question relates to the key criteria that is used to establish period and style in a garden.

Explain **TWO** ways that the interrelationship between a garden and the wider landscape can be used when identifying the period or style of a garden.

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2

Total Mark

Question 2 (6 marks)

MARKS

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

a) Define what is meant by ‘significance’ within a conservation management plan.

2

b) Explain **TWO** distinct ways that significance is used to inform the prioritisation of works.

1:

2

2:

2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 3 (6 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to Plant information sources.

a) Explain what is meant by a nomenclature standard in plant taxonomy.

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2

b) Explain what is meant by a type specimen.

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2

c) Explain the role of type specimens in plant taxonomy.

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2

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 4 (6 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to applied plant knowledge.

a) Define what is meant by the term ‘natural method of propagation’.

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2

b) State **FOUR** examples of natural methods of propagation.

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1

Total Mark

Question 5 (6 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to combining plants.

Describe how **THREE** distinct design principles impact on the combination of plant species to create a planting design.

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Total Mark

Question 6 (6 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to the development of propagation protocols.

Describe **THREE** factors that are considered when developing propagation protocols.

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Total Mark

Question 7 (8 marks)

This question relates to selecting plants for a purpose.

Discuss how plants deliver ecosystem services in gardens and cultivated landscapes.

[illegible]**MARKS**

8

Total Mark

Candidate name

Candidate number

Centre name

Question 8 (8 marks)

This question relates to propagation facilities.

Summarise the key influences that horticultural research findings have had on the planning of propagation facilities.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

MARKS

8

Total Mark

Candidate name

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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

This question relates to Horticultural heritage and the key influences on the development of horticultural space.

Evaluate how communities of practice support decision-making in horticultural heritage contexts.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C2

This question relates to plant information sources.

Discuss how plant trials and award schemes contribute to Best Practice in the management of plant collections and gardens.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C3

This question relates to plant procurement.

Discuss the importance of biosecurity measures in plant procurement.

Explain how these biosecurity measures inform decisions when specifying plants for planting

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C4

This question relates to plant propagation.

Discuss how sustainability considerations influence plant propagation decisions.

Your response should make specific reference to the sustainable use of resources.

15 marks

Total Mark

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