RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

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

UNIT 2

Thursday 12th 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

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

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.

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RHS Level 3 Certificate in Plant Growth, Garden Planning and Applied Propagation - 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:
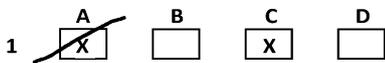
	A	B	C	D
1	X	☐	X	☐

Question		Answer		
	A	B	C	D
1	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	☐	☐	☐	☐
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12	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	☐	☐	☐	☐
14	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	☐	☐	☐	☐
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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 of the following best explains why obtaining feedback from staff, volunteers, garden users and stakeholders is important in the management of a public garden?

a) It allows managers to measure visitor satisfaction, identify areas for improvement and enhance garden performance
b) It provides opportunities for volunteers and stakeholders to advertise services and generate income for the garden
c) It allows volunteers to meet with staff, garden users and stakeholders and so feel part of the wider garden team
d) It enables garden managers to compare key measurements with other gardens and so develop Best Practice

Question 2

Which of the following best describes an effective communication strategy with stakeholders in a public garden setting?

a) Sending accurate, occasional updates to volunteer teams on an annual basis to encourage effective communications
b) Sharing maintenance plans for garden areas to encourage understanding, collaboration and continued support
c) Providing accurate, timely information that encourages engagement, collaboration and continued support
d) Detailing staff recruitment strategies, shortlisted applicants, selection processes and induction records for information

Question 3

Which of the following best describes the main purpose of horticultural therapy?

a) To build community connections, and develop green spaces for wellbeing
b) To encourage people to develop volunteering roles in community gardens
c) To help patients to recover by having green spaces near to wards in hospitals
d) To improve wellbeing through a planned programme of horticultural activities

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

Question 4

Why is it valuable to include a wide range of community voices in planning a public garden?

- a) It ensures the garden will not be subject to antisocial behaviour
- b) It helps the project reflect a range of needs, cultures and abilities
- c) It creates local understanding of sustainability and biodiversity
- d) It guarantees equal funding for every individual volunteer involved

Question 5

Why is recognising a garden's 'Spirit of Place' important when creating visitor experiences?

- a) It ensures planting is selected strictly on soil, light and moisture requirements
- b) It ensures the garden reflects the technological advances and fashions of the age
- c) It ensures design decisions feel authentic and reflect the site's unique character
- d) It ensures historically documented cultivars are used throughout the garden

Question 6

How does garden design style influence maintenance standards?

- a) Formal designs require precise pruning and edging to maintain strong lines and symmetry
- b) Visitor numbers have a greater influence on maintenance standards than design
- c) Formal and informal gardens require the same standards to prevent inconsistencies
- d) Volunteer availability has a greater influence on maintenance standards than design

Question 7

Which of the following should be included in a garden maintenance schedule?

- a) The personal protective equipment required for each task
- b) The frequency that key tasks should be carried out
- c) The biosecurity records for each key plant group
- d) The visitor feedback for the area being maintained

Question 8

Why is information management important in garden resource management?

- a) It provides accurate data, helping managers allocate time and resources efficiently
- b) It ensures that all staff and volunteers can consistently follow the same list of procedures
- c) It guarantees that tasks are completed in the order they appear on the maintenance plan
- d) It allows staff to complete tasks without supervision because information is in the plan

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

Question 9

A garden manager is dealing with conflict between two volunteers.

Why is ACAS an appropriate organisation to contact?

    a) It provides support materials that help organisations improve equality, diversity and volunteer relationships
    b) It provides general advice based on other organisations' experiences using case studies
    c) It provides impartial, authoritative guidance on conflict resolution and employment rights
    d) It provides Best Practice guidance on people management, based on current Health and Safety law

Question 10

What does the term soil amelioration mean when applied to productive growing?

    a) Creating a raised bed system on sites with heavily compacted soils
    b) Applying the principle of right plant right place when selecting crops
    c) Improving soil condition to make it more suitable for plant growth
    d) Using emerging weed control techniques like hot foam to sterilise soil

Question 11

Which of the following control methods is both effective and sustainable when managing perennial weeds?

    a) Removing or weakening the weed over time through repeated cutting
    b) Applying repeated herbicide applications throughout the season
    c) Cultivating the soil deeply to break up roots and improve drainage
    d) Leaving the weeds until they flower, then removing the seed heads

Question 12

Which of the following best describes how a Gantt chart supports planning in a productive garden?

    a) It records irrigation applications for sustainability records
    b) It compares crop yield across different growing seasons
    c) It tracks the cost of inputs to manage garden budgets
    d) It shows timings so sowing and harvesting can be planned

Question 13

Which statement best describes the role of aquaponics in edible crop production?

    a) It uses nutrient-rich water from fish tanks to feed plants, creating a closed-loop growing system
    b) It uses nutrient-rich water from worm compost to feed plants, creating a closed-loop growing system
    c) It uses nutrient-rich water from bore holes to feed plants, creating a closed-loop growing system
    d) It uses nutrient-rich water from animal slurry to feed plants, creating a closed-loop growing system

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

Question 14

Which statement best describes why regular tree inspection is important?

a) It helps to ensure that the size of tree canopies match the original installation layout
b) It helps to verify interpretation boards remain relevant to the species and their maturity
c) It helps verify that understory planting receives the intended levels of dappled shade
d) It helps identify structural or health issues early, reducing risk to people and property

Question 15

Which statement best describes hard landscaping suitable for use in water gardens?

a) Natural materials like rustic stones with varied textures can create a safe, non-slip transition
b) Stone paving with a high visibility inlay should be used to alert people to the proximity of water
c) Natural materials like bark are used to surface paths that run along the shores of lakes in woodland gardens
d) Compacted soil adds a natural, organic finish to paths that run along the shores of lakes in ecological gardens

Question 16

Which statement best describes the core concept of ecological planting?

a) Choosing site appropriate plants that will grow together to provide nature therapy settings
b) Choosing site appropriate plants that will grow together to provide ecosystem services
c) Choosing site appropriate plants that will grow together to form resilient plant communities
d) Choosing site appropriate plants that will grow together to form native plant communities

Question 17

Which statement best describes a supervisor's responsibility for PPE when managing a productive garden?

a) Ensuring PPE is available, maintained, and used correctly as part of safe working procedures
b) Selecting colour coded PPE so that volunteers and team leaders can be easily identified
c) Recording PPE purchases to ensure they remain within the annual garden budget
d) Specifying the PPE required at induction so new staff know which items they need to buy and supply

Question 18

During a public open day, which action best demonstrates a supervisor's effective approach to visitor risk assessment?

a) Review formal visitor feedback for comments that relate to hazards around the garden
b) Focus on creating a series of warning signs to manage Health safety risks in the garden
c) Reviewing past incidents to identify hazards and applying proportionate safety measures
d) Ensure that pre visit information states that the garden may have a wide range of hazards

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

Question 19

How can a supervisor demonstrate fairness when allocating garden maintenance tasks?

a) Matching tasks to individual skills, while also ensuring workloads are shared equally
b) Rotating all tasks daily so everyone completes every job regardless of skill or preference
c) Assigning easier jobs to long-serving volunteers as recognition of their contribution
d) Allocating physically demanding tasks to younger staff members, who will be fitter

Question 20

What is a likely consequence of discrimination, victimisation, or harassment in a garden team?

a) Improved motivation because staff compete to prove their value within the team
b) Reduced morale, loss of trust, and damage to the organisation's reputation and performance
c) Increased productivity as individuals focus on personal achievement and independence
d) Greater efficiency through reduced discussion and faster decision-making processes

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

End of section A.

Please continue to Section B.

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

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

MARKS

Question 1 (8 marks)

This question relates to hard landscaping elements.

a) State **TWO** examples of hard landscaping features commonly found in Cottage Gardens.

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b) Explain **TWO** ways in which the selection of materials for hard landscaping features can support sustainability.

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c) Describe **ONE** way that the layout of hard landscaping can enhance the aesthetic of a Cottage Garden.

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Total Mark

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

MARKS

Question 2 (6 marks)

This question relates to the management of trees.

a) State **TWO** roles that trees play within modernist gardens.

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b) Explain **TWO** sustainable maintenance considerations that influence how trees are managed in gardens.

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Total Mark

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

MARKS

Question 3 (6 marks)

This question relates to the growing systems used in productive growing.

a) Define the term Certified Organic Production.

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b) Explain **ONE** advantage and **ONE** disadvantage of Certified Organic Production.

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Total Mark

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

MARKS

Question 4 (4 marks)

This question relates to the selection of crops and planning cropping.

Explain **TWO** impacts that perennial vegetable crops have on space availability in a productive garden.

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Total Mark

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Question 5 (6 marks)

This question relates to planning projects within gardens management.

a) Define the term project management.

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b) Name the **FOUR** key stages in the management of a horticultural project **in the correct order.**

Stage 1: ....

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Stage 2: ....

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Stage 3: ....

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Stage 4: ....

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Total Mark

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

MARKS

Question 6 (4 marks)

This question relates to wellbeing.

a) State **TWO** ways that access to green space can improve personal wellbeing.

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b) Explain **ONE** way a garden can be designed to support the wellbeing of visitors.

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Question 7 (8 marks)

Discuss the key factors that contribute to a positive visitor experience in a public garden.

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Total Mark

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

MARKS

Question 8 (8 marks)

Discuss the main factors that inform how crops are chosen for a productive garden that is open to the public.

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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 <u>TWO</u> 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.

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please turn over………

Candidate name   Candidate number   Centre name

Question C1

Discuss the main factors that influence the selection of plants for a range of garden styles.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C2

Evaluate how sustainable management practices affect crop yield in productive or edible garden settings.

15 marks

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Question C3

Discuss how effective people and resource management help to achieve high maintenance standards in a garden.

15 marks

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Question C4

Evaluate the effectiveness of different methods used to engage local communities when developing public gardens.

15 marks

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