RHS use only			
A	B	C	Total

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

UNIT 2

Thursday 25th 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:

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	Answer B	Answer C	Answer D
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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 garden style is shown in the image above?

a) Prairie landscape
b) Formal garden
c) Woodland garden
d) Cottage garden

Question 2

Which of the following is an informal source of feedback?

a) A written report from a survey
b) A visitor satisfaction questionnaire
c) Verbal comments from visitors
d) A garden benchmarking project

Question 3

Which of the following best describes the role of volunteers in gardens?

a) To support cost reduction policies by replacing some employed staff
b) To supplement the work of paid staff, rather than to replace them
c) To ensure quality standards are achieved through lived experience
d) To provide practical garden management advice based on experience

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 4

'The members of the community feel a sense of responsibility and connection to the garden, respecting the space as partly theirs rather than simply being run by professionals.'

Which of the following statements most accurately defines the above sentence?

a) Improved outcomes
b) Shared ownership
c) Shared prosperity
d) Inclusion and diversity

Question 5

Which of the following options best describes the development of community spaces in a garden?

a) Creating spaces that are shaped and used with input from local communities
b) Creating spaces that are cohesive and resonate deeply with visitors
c) Creating spaces that are inclusive for example the planting of sensory gardens
d) Creating spaces that reduce noise and pollution for example by creating mounds

Question 6

A botanical garden website states: *'We share knowledge of the plant kingdom to benefit humankind.'*

What is this an example of?

a) Stakeholder statement
b) Value statement
c) Method statement
d) Mission statement

Question 7

This document sets out the long-term vision, objectives, priorities and management approach for a garden, guiding decision-making and maintenance over time.

What is this document called?

a) A Maintenance Schedule
b) A Garden Management Plan
c) A Cropping Plan
d) A Visitor Management Strategy

Question 8

Which of the following best describes the role of stakeholders in the development of a horticultural site?

a) To influence decisions by representing interests and perspectives
b) To provide specialist horticultural knowledge and consultancy
c) To be responsible for legal and procedural training and compliance
d) To manage projects to ensure specifications and budgets are met

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 9

Why might professionals such as landscape architects or arboriculturists be involved in the development of a horticultural site?

a) To evaluate and report on findings of formal and informal feedback activity
b) To develop and define the overall mission and values of the organisation
c) To represent local community opinion to ensure community engagement
d) To provide expert advice to ensure work meets professional standards

Question 10

What is the main purpose of information management when managing material resources in a garden?

a) To ensure the standardisation of cultural practices across different gardens
b) To ensure that interpretation boards are in place to share information
c) To ensure accurate information is available to support decision-making
d) To ensure effective communication with all garden visitors and stakeholders

Question 11

According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, what is the term used to identify when a member of a garden management team reaches their full potential?

a) Goal attainment
b) Hygiene factors
c) Theory Y
d) Self-actualisation

Question 12

The results of research, development and trials are communicated to productive growers in the UK through:

a) Plant Review
b) Plant Finder
c) Garden News
d) Horticulture Week

Question 13

Which organisation, through its Heritage Seed Library, conserves and maintains vegetable varieties by active cultivation, allowing their continued evaluation and use within organic growing systems?

a) Soil Association
b) Garden Organic
c) British Growers Association
d) Chartered Institute of Horticulture

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Question 14

Which of the following statements best explains the concept of intercropping in productive growing?

a) The practice of growing two or more crops in the same space at the same time
b) The practice of successional sowing to give a greater continuity of supply
c) The practice of starting crops in protective structures before planting them out
d) The practice of growing native wildflowers within crops to benefit biodiversity

Question 15

This practice involves the planned growing of different plant families on the same area of land in a set sequence over successive seasons or years, in order to maintain soil fertility, manage nutrient balance, and reduce the build-up of pests, diseases and weeds.

The practice is:

a) Integrated Pest Management
b) Organic Crop Production
c) Crop rotation
d) Continuous cropping

Question 16

Which productive growing system uses nutrient-rich water from fish waste to feed plants, with the plants helping to clean and recirculate the water back to the fish?

a) Bareroot
b) Aquaponics
c) Aeroponics
d) Permaculture

Question 17

Which of the following best explains why trees are used sparingly in alpine (rock) gardens?

a) Trees are grown as compact or slow growing forms to prevent competition
b) Trees are used sparingly to avoid the transfer of pests and pathogens
c) Trees are removed to allow space for seasonal planting schemes
d) Trees are removed to allow for increased drainage and aeration

Question 18

The image above shows a hard landscaping surface most appropriate to which type of garden style?

a) Alpine and rock garden
b) Display greenhouse
c) Cottage garden
d) Woodland garden

Question 19

Which of the following statements most closely relates to the health and safety checks a garden supervisor should make when overseeing a project?

a) Check that all materials are available and have been stored correctly
b) Allowing staff to bring in their own tools, that they are familiar with
c) Ensuring risk assessments exist, and that all staff are competent
d) Monitor staff to ensure that work is done efficiently to minimise waste

Question 20

Which of the following best demonstrates a sustainable approach in productive growing?

a) Selecting growing systems that maintain soil health and reduce inputs
b) Selecting crops to meet the needs of local people and community groups
c) Focusing on soil improvement and amelioration strategies to increase yield
d) Ensuring that crops can flourish without the detrimental impacts of weeds

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 planting styles.

Explain **TWO** ways water gardens can benefit biodiversity, for example through the plants they support or the habitats they create.

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2: **2**

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Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 2 (4 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to productive growing.

Minimal cultivation practices are often used in productive gardens.

Explain **TWO** advantages of using these methods in the management of other garden areas.

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Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 3 (8 marks)

MARKS

Explain **FOUR** ways that the performance of staff working in a garden can be evaluated.

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4: **2**

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Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 4 (4 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to maintenance standards.

a) Define the term ‘method statement’.

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b) Outline how a garden manager can ensure that method statements have been applied during maintenance work.

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Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 5 (6 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to gardens and their visitors.

Explain **THREE** criteria that can be used to measure the effectiveness of an exhibition in a garden.

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Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 6 (8 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to social prescribing.

Suggest **FOUR** ways that horticultural interventions can benefit wellbeing.

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Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 7 (8 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to productive growing and sustainability.

Compare the use of soil amelioration in sustainable horticulture and in traditional productive growing systems to optimise crop yield.

In your answer, explain the differing aims of each approach and how these aims influence the methods and materials used for soil amelioration.

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Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question 8 (8 marks)

MARKS

This question relates to Garden styles and specialist areas.

Explain how the health of trees is managed within gardens.

Your answer should include how the style of the garden can impact on the management of tree health.

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End of section B.

Please continue to Section C.

Total Mark

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 both garden styles and hard landscaping elements.

Analyse how the choice of paving materials influence drainage performance, surface safety, and visitor flow with reference to **NAMED** garden styles.

15 marks

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question C2

This question relates to productive growing, the selection of crops and crop planning.

Discuss the factors that influence successful crop planning in a productive garden.

15 marks

Total Mark

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Question C3

This question relates to the role of garden management plans.

Outline the role of garden management plans in justifying additional resources required within a garden.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Question C4

This question relates to gardens, people and spaces.

Evaluate the value of benchmarking as a tool in the management and continuous improvement of a public garden.

15 marks

Total Mark

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Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

Candidate name Candidate number Centre name

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