

Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel:

Horticulture, Plantmanship, Forestry and Floristry

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
included in this report**

**Amenity Horticulture (Int.2)
Plant Propagation (Int.2)**

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2001	
Amenity Horticulture	23
Plant Propagation	23

Number of entries in 2002	
Amenity Horticulture	14
Plant Propagation	12

General comments re entry numbers

Entry numbers slightly down overall. This information is correct as at the pass mark meeting of 3 July 2002. At least an additional 8 candidates in both subjects completed with a 30 June 02 completion date. These numbers will bring the overall entry numbers to approximately the same as session 2000 – 2001. This year delivered by 3 centres (last year 4 centres). Numbers from each centre slightly increased from last year.

General comments

Although 3 centres delivered the awards in session 2001 – 2002 a number of centres indicated their intention to deliver but did not have viable numbers for the courses to proceed. Both National Courses are delivered as part of the Scottish Group Award in Land and Environment. All centres deliver both courses.

Grade boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

Grade boundaries Amenity Horticulture :	Upper A	85%	Mark 170 (maximum mark 200)
	A	70%	Mark 140
	B	60%	Mark 120
	C	50%	Mark 100
Grade boundaries Plant Propagation:	Upper A	85%	Mark 170 (maximum mark 200)
	A	70%	Mark 140
	B	60%	Mark 120
	C	50%	Mark 100

General commentary on grade boundaries

Notional percentage cut-offs for each grade

Question papers and their associated marking schemes are designed to be of the required standard and to meet the assessment specification for the subject/level concerned.

For National courses the examination paper(s) are set in order that a score of approximately 50% of the total marks for all components merits a grade C (based on the grade descriptions for that grade), and similarly a score of 70 % for a grade A. The lowest mark for a grade B is set by the computer software as half way between the C and A grade boundaries.

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

As the practical assignment for each course does not change from year to year the grade boundaries are identical to session 2000-2001.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Overall candidates were well prepared for the practical assignments. For Amenity Horticulture the majority of the candidates chose Brief 1 that relates to the design and planting of an area. In Plant Propagation there was even distribution of candidates between Brief 1 and Brief 2.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Candidates performed particularly well in the development stage, scoring high marks for their practical 'hands on' work.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

In centres that had integrated the practical assignments for both Plant Propagation and Amenity Horticulture the candidates often found difficulty in keeping the evidence separate. The Evaluation component of the external assessment in Amenity Horticulture is not as well done as the Plan and Develop components.

Amenity Horticulture average marks by component:

Plan	25.4	(maximum 40)	(12.7% from 20%)
Develop	78.6	(maximum 120)	(39.3% from 60%)
Evaluate	18.4	(maximum 40)	(9.2% from 20%)

Plant Propagation average marks by component:

Plan	23	(maximum 40)	(11.5% from 20%)
Develop	81.4	(maximum 120)	(40.7% from 60%)
Evaluate	23.2	(maximum 40)	(11.6% from 20%)

Areas of common misunderstanding

Centres are still unclear on when they can use hand written notes. Candidates are permitted one A4 page of hand written notes for the evaluation stage, but not the development stage.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

Centres should ensure adequate evidence is available to underpin the 'hands on' activities, particularly when the final product is not available (i.e. the propagated plants in Plant Propagation).