Including examiner comments

R3112

UNDERSTANDING THE SELECTION AND USE OF LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS IN THEGARDEN

Level 3

Thursday 27 June 2019

11:25 – 12:50

Written Examination

Candidate Number:……

Candidate Name:……

Centre Number/Name:……

IMPORTANT – Please read carefully before commencing:

i) The duration of this paper is **85** minutes;

ii) **ALL** questions should be attempted;

iii) **EACH** question carries **10 marks**;

iv) Write your answers legibly in the spaces provided. It is **NOT** necessary that all lined space is used in answering the questions;

v) Use **METRIC** measurements only;

vi) Use black or blue ink only. Pencil may be used for drawing purposes only;

vii) Where plant names are required, they should include genus, species and where appropriate, cultivar.

viii) Where a question requires a specific number of answers; only the first answers given that meet the question requirement will be accepted, regardless of the number of answers offered;

ix) Please note, when the word **'distinct'** is used within a question, it means that the items have different characteristics or features.

Ofqual Unit Code A/507/5864

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

MARKS

Q1 a) Describe **TWO** distinct contributions that herbaceous borders can make to the design of a garden. **4**

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b) Describe **THREE NAMED** plants from different genera suitable for an herbaceous border, giving **TWO** distinct decorative merits for **EACH**.

1..... **2**

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Please see over/…..

MARKS

2. ..... **2**

3. ..... **2**

Total Mark

Please turn over/…..

MARKS

Q2 a) Name **TWO** distinct hard landscaping materials that could be selected to provide a permeable path. **2**

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b) Describe **TWO** benefits and **TWO** limitations of using grass for paths (other than permeability). **8**

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MARKS

Total Mark

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MARKS

Q3 a) Name **FOUR** distinct materials suitable for hard landscaping. **2**

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b) Describe how **EACH** of the materials above can provide textural interest in **FOUR** distinct hard landscape features in a garden by completing the table overleaf: **8**

QUESTION 3 CONTINUES ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE

Please see over/…..

Material	Hard landscape feature	Textural interest	MARKS
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
			Total Mark

Please turn over/…..

Q4 a) State **FIVE** functional characteristics of materials suitable for the surface of a children's play area in a public garden.

MARKS
5

Please see over/…..

MARKS

b) Name **TWO** materials which meet the requirements for the situation named in a). **2**

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c) State **THREE** aesthetic contributions of **ONE** of the materials named in b). **3**

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Total Mark

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MARKS

Q5 Describe how to achieve a balance of year-round interest in a garden design, (excluding a bedding scheme), using a combination of **FIVE NAMED** plants from different genera. **10**

Please see over/…..

MARKS

Total Mark

Please turn over/…..

MARKS

Q6 Describe **FIVE** distinct contributions that shrubs can make to a domestic garden. **10**

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MARKS

Total Mark

Please turn over/…..

MARKS

Q7 a) List **FOUR** hard landscape features that could be made of plastic. **2**

b) Describe the suitability of plastic as a hard landscape material under **EACH** of the following headings:

i) environmental factors; **4**
ii) aesthetic factors. **4**

Please see over/…..

MARKS

Total Mark

Please turn over/…..

MARKS

Q8 a) State **TWO** benefits of stone garden walls in a garden situation. **2**

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b) Describe **FOUR NAMED** plants from different genera that would be suitable for growing against a north facing wall. **8**

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MARKS

Total Mark

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R3112

UNDERSTANDING THE SELECTION AND USE OF LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS IN THEGARDEN

Level 3

Thursday 27 June 2019

Candidates Registered	**71**		**Total Candidates Passed**	**54**	**98%**
Candidates Entered	55	77%	Passed with Commendation	35	64%
Candidates Absent/Withdrawn	14	20%	Passed	19	35%
Candidates Deferred	2	3%	Failed	1	1%

General comment - candidates should be aware that detailed answers are expected to gain the marks on offer.

MARKS

Q1 a) Describe **TWO** distinct contributions that herbaceous borders can make to the design of a garden. **4**

b) Describe **THREE NAMED** plants from different genera suitable for an herbaceous border, giving **TWO** distinct decorative merits for **EACH**. **6**

Q1. a) Marks were awarded for stating a point of contribution and then detailing it. Candidates generally answered this part with a good level of detail and gained high marks. Lost marks came from those who made a point but failed to justify it.

Expected answers included:

- An herbaceous border can contribute seasonal interest, for example autumn interest provided by members of the Asteraceae family
- Provision of a range of different textures, for example feathery grasses and glossy foliage of *Acanthus mollis*
- Colour effects/themes, for example hot reds leading to cool blues
- As part of a formal garden design with a long straight edged border and strict tiers of planting.
- As part of an informal design with curved edges and varied plant heights
- To attract wildlife by providing nectar for pollinators, forage, shelter etc.

b) Marks were awarded for each named herbaceous plant and two of its decorative merits. Most candidates scored well here, describing their chosen plants' merits in great detail. Marks were not awarded for inclusion of woody plants such as sub shrubs as the question asked for plants suitable for an herbaceous border.

MARKS

Q2 a) Name **TWO** distinct hard landscaping materials that could be selected to provide a permeable path. **2**

b) Describe **TWO** benefits and **TWO** limitations of using grass for paths (other than permeability). **8**

Q2 a) Most candidates scored well, with expected answers including gravel, resin bound aggregate, bark chippings, permeable block paving brick. Stone (type specified) or paving were given marks if sand was specified instead of mortar.

b) Candidates, when describing two benefits and two limitations of grass paths, were expected to state each point and describe it in more detail to gain full marks. Whilst many candidates gave detailed answers and scored well, some lost marks for lack of detail.

Expected answers for benefits of using grass for paths included:

- Grass provides a wildlife habitat, providing insect life/worms for birds
- Grass may be more aesthetically pleasing with the natural green surface softening the garden design
- Grass may be more pleasant to walk on with its soft surface
- Grass seed/turf cheaper to install than named hard landscaping
- Grass can be used to create curved shapes more easily compared to concrete paving slabs/or other valid example of hard landscape materials. No mark was given if comparison was with resin bound aggregate or gravel.
- As part of a design grass paths provide unity, linking areas of lawn
- In environmental terms grass provides a cool area compared to hard landscaping and reduces CO^2 levels.

Limitations of grass paths included:

- Grass can wear easily creating unsightly bare patches
- They need high maintenance with mowing/edging, etc.
- They can easily become slippery/wet causing a health and safety hazard
- They may not be suitable for all year use, when frozen or wet

MARKS

Q3 a) Name **FOUR** distinct materials suitable for hard landscaping. **2**

b) Describe how **EACH** of the materials above can provide textural interest in **FOUR** distinct hard landscape features in a garden by completing the table overleaf:

Material	Hard landscape feature	Textural interest	
1.			**2**
2.			**2**
3.			**2**
4.			**2**

Q3 a) Most candidates could correctly name four distinct hard landscaping materials and gained full marks.

b) Marks were awarded for correctly naming a use for each of the four materials and then describing their textural interest. Most candidates could correctly name a use for each material and scored well for this section. The understanding of textural interest varied between candidates and many lost marks in this part by not explaining either a visual or tactile use of texture. The question asked for a description of how the materials can provide textural interest in a hard landscape feature; answers were expected to include a point of textural interest and how it relates to the suggested hard landscape feature, for example:

- Recycled bricks for a garden path to provide a rough texture with contrast between bricks, mortar and surroundings,
- Yorkstone could be used for a patio, providing a riven texture to enhance natural feel of using stone or to provide a coarse contrast to surroundings,
- Glass could be used for a mirror to provide a reflective surface, the smoothness of which contrasts with busier/coarser surrounding textures,
- Planed wood for a handrail for garden steps, providing a smooth texture to allow garden users to comfortably grip it.

			MARKS
Q4	a)	State **FIVE** functional characteristics of materials suitable for the surface of a children's play area in a public garden.	**5**
	b)	Name **TWO** materials which meet the requirements for the situation named in a).	**2**
	c)	State **THREE** aesthetic contributions of **ONE** of the materials named in b).	**3**

Q4

a) This part of the question was well answered, with candidates stating points relating to practicality and safety gaining high marks. Expected answers included:

- Long lasting/durable
- High impact absorbency
- Can be installed at a range of depths to suit Critical Fall Heights
- Porous (with a suitable base)
- Not slippery when wet
- Requires minimum maintenance
- Non toxic

b) Whilst most candidates scored well here, many lost part of a mark by not being specific about the grade of 'bark' and mentioning the need for it to be play grade. Some candidates incorrectly suggested gravel as a suitable surface for a children's play area. Expected materials included:

- Bark -play grade/reference to play-safe bark
- Wet pour rubber granules
- Artificial grass
- Rubber tiles
- Chipped rubber

c) Marks were awarded only if the selected material was correct (suitable as a surface material in a children's play area), and three distinctive aesthetic contributions were expected. No marks were awarded for non-aesthetic contributions, such as chipped rubber potentially being from a recycled source. For wet pour rubber granules, the expected points included reference to colour options, appropriateness of the material to the setting, and potential for different patterns/link to other patterns in the design of the area.

		MARKS
Q5	Describe how to achieve a balance of year-round interest in a garden design, (excluding a bedding scheme), using a combination of **FIVE NAMED** plants from different genera.	**10**

Q5 This question was generally well answered, with candidates who referenced five named plants which, in combination, provided interest throughout the year, gaining high marks. Those candidates who didn't include plants that provided interest through the entire year couldn't gain full marks. Those with limited detail in their description of a plant's interest also lost marks.

Marks were awarded for correctly naming the plant, stating the season of interest and describing its point of interest, for example:

Osmanthus delavayi for spring interest provided by a mass of scented white flowers that contrast with its dark, glossy evergreen foliage;

Symphyotrichon novae-anglii 'Barrs Pink' for autumn interest provided by bright pink flowers covering its leafy stems.

		MARKS
Q6	Describe **FIVE** distinct contributions that shrubs can make to a domestic garden.	**10**

Q6 Most candidates answered this question well and many scored high marks where they included sufficient detail in their answer. The contributions of shrubs to a domestic garden needed to be distinct and each one justified to gain full marks. Some candidates failed to include five distinct contributions and lost marks. Appropriate contributions included topiary, screening, defining boundaries, mazes, borders for decorative interest, wall shrubs and climbers, and herbs.

Marks were awarded for each contribution including naming the contribution, and describing how a shrub achieves this; correctly named shrubs were considered for marks, but full marks could be achieved with a full description without naming an appropriate shrub.

For example, for screening: *Prunus lusitanica* can be used for screening due to its dense, evergreen foliage. It can be pruned to shape, allowing it to act as a screen without taking up too much space in a garden. Screening plants are useful for blocking unsightly views or compartmentalising a garden.

			MARKS
Q8	a)	State **TWO** benefits of stone garden walls in a garden situation.	**2**
	b)	Describe **FOUR NAMED** plants from different genera that would be suitable for growing against a north facing wall.	**8**

Q8 a) This question was answered well by most candidates. The expected benefits of stone walls included:

- provision of niches for planting in between the stones
- good for biodiversity
- strong, hard wearing
- aesthetically pleasing

b) Candidates tended to have a good knowledge of plants suitable for growing against a north facing wall. Only a small proportion of candidates who named plants that require a sunny wall to thrive lost out on marks. Most selected shade-tolerant climbers and wall shrubs suitable for the stated situation.

Marks were awarded for correctly naming a plant and describing it, including form, foliage, flowers, fruit and any other relevant feature.

Pyracantha ‘Orange Glow’ an evergreen wall shrub with glossy dark green leaves. Clusters of small, white flowers in early summer are followed by long-lasting, bright orange berries.

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