



# Assessment Plan

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Route: Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care

Standard: Sports Turf Operative

**Apprenticeships and Associated Training Framework**  
**Assessment Plan**  
**Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care**  
**Sports Turf Operative**

Summary of Assessment				
<p>This apprenticeship is designed to operate as the professional standard for people working as a Sports Turf Operative, catering for various types of employer, with their different operating models, support structures and for the range of different sporting environments within the industry.</p> <p>The design principles have been led by employers and the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), which is the professional body for the sports turf operatives and others working in the grounds care industry.</p> <p>The model has been refined through a networking group consisting of employers, training providers and assessment experts including the IOG.</p> <p>The principles driving the design of the assessment plan are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maximum relevance to the job wherever possible</li> <li>2. Integration with daily responsibilities wherever possible</li> <li>3. Added value to the apprentice’s journey, both during and at the end of the apprenticeship.</li> </ol>				
End Point Assessment Overview				
Assessment Method	Area Assessed	Assessed by	Grading	Weighting
Written and Online test	Knowledge and behaviours	Independent Assessment Organisation	Fail / Pass / Merit / Distinction	40%
Practical assessment	Skills, behaviours and knowledge to explain what they are doing.	Independent Assessment Organisation	Fail / Pass / Merit / Distinction	60%

**Assessment Journey - Timelines and outcome**

Months: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-(19-20-21-22-23-24)

Determine appropriate qualification/s and training course/s to best meet needs of apprentice and employer's situation to facilitate the apprentice's learning journey to the end point assessment. These are not required during the on-programme phase of the apprenticeship and employers are free not to use any qualifications or training courses if they so wish.

Complete IOG 'Record of Progress' document, or equivalent, to be maintained by apprentice

**Assessment Gateway**

All skills, knowledge and behaviours have been adequately demonstrated, over time, and documented in the 'Record of Progress'. The employer and training provider sign off the Record of Progress to confirm the apprentice is ready for the Final Phase

**Final Phase (Month 19 - 24)**

Level 2 knowledge assessment papers

+

Level 2 practical assessments

=

2 x end point assessments taken together to reach a **final grade** of fail, pass, merit or distinction

<b>Professional Qualifications</b>
No professional qualifications are required.
<b>On-Programme Assessment</b>
<p>There is no on-programme assessment during the programme. Due to the physical nature of the work of a sports turf operative it is recommended that health and safety considerations, such as manual handling and the safe use of equipment, form a significant integrated part of the first two-months of an apprenticeship programme.</p> <p>An employer and training provider may wish to provide additional value to an apprentice's learning journey by offering parallel training courses and qualifications as a way of reinforcing progress made by an apprentice towards the Standard. It is strongly recommended that one or more of these additionalities are included as part of the learning journey.</p> <p>A range of recommended training courses and qualifications can be considered, but are not mandatory, to support the learning journey (again the precise requirement will depend upon the needs of the learner): a list of recommended qualifications and short training courses have been included as an 'Employer occupational brief, which is available at the same place as the IOG Record of Progress document, which is in the public domain at <a href="https://www.iog.org/record-progress-document-newapprenticeship-standard">https://www.iog.org/record-progress-document-newapprenticeship-standard</a>.</p>
<b>Assessment Gateway</b>
<p>It is recommended that the use of a 'Record of Progress', which tracks all the requirements of the standard, can benefit the employer and training provider by facilitating the decision in agreeing when the apprentice can be put forward for the end point assessment. The decision should be based on when the employer and training provider are both satisfied that the apprentice is able to demonstrate all the requirements of the standard. This will then allow apprentices to access the end point assessment.</p> <p>We recommend that the learning programme is based on the IOG Record of Progress document, which is in the public domain and is available at <a href="https://www.iog.org/record-progress-document-newapprenticeship-standard">https://www.iog.org/record-progress-document-newapprenticeship-standard</a>. This outlines the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be a competent sports turf operative in the groundsmanship industry and can also be used as the basis for a digital reflective learning journal to stretch and drive their Continuous Professional Development.</p>

**End Point - Assessment**

The End Point Assessment forms 100% of the assessment of the apprenticeship.

Extended details of the assessment requirements are described in Annex B.

The Final Assessment will contain two components – all components must be at least passed for the apprentice to be deemed competent.

1. A synoptic knowledge assessment to consist of two papers: one multiple-choice and one structured questions (written-answer) to assess across the range of knowledge and behaviour requirements of the apprenticeship. These will be sat under invigilated conditions and marked by the Independent Assessment Organisation.

- One multiple choice paper will be of 60 minutes duration and will consist of 15 questions each with 4 options (3 distractors) and 15 questions each with 6 options (5 distractors).
- One written answer paper will be of 90 minutes duration and will consist of 15 questions.

The rules of combination for the papers are to be:

Multiple choice paper:

	Part a: (questions with 4 options, 3 distractors)	Part b: (questions with 6 options, 5 distractors)
Knowledge	12	12
Behaviours	3	3

Written answer paper:

- Knowledge: 11 questions
- Behaviours: 4 questions

The multiple choice questions are to be marked as one point each, whilst the written answer paper questions are to be marked as two points each. The points for both papers are totalled and the overall percentage mark and grade determined from this total. High marks in one paper can offset low marks in the other paper as it is the combined total which is being graded, not the individual papers.

The assessment papers, which are designed by the Independent Assessment Organisation, can be attempted either online or as a traditional hard copy format to accommodate the needs of different learners.

The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that apprentices show a common standard of understanding that aligns with the Standard's knowledge and behaviours.

2. A synoptic practical assessment assessed by an independent assessor (Independent Assessment Organisation) that requires the candidate to complete a number of core practical activities, in controlled conditions, which enable demonstration across all the main skills and behaviours identified in the standard. The practical assessment will occur in the workplace environment. The duration will depend on the capabilities of the candidate, however, as a guide it is suggested that a continuous 2day period will be adequate to ensure the range of required skills are assessed in a holistic way.

Evidence will predominantly be via observation but will also include oral questioning to ensure the apprentice has the skills and supporting knowledge required of the role. Where oral questioning is used this is to assess knowledge relating to a practical skill or task, for example, 'why', 'when' type questions – not 'how'.

The practical tasks, for which scoring parameters are included within Annex B (with the grade descriptors being given below in 'End point - final judgement'), that must be included within the practical assessment are:

1. The use of a pedestrian operated mechanised cylinder mower
2. The use of a ride-on mower
3. The use of one tractor mounted implement (powered or non-powered)
4. The use of a scarifier (hand or mechanised)
5. The use of an aerator(hand or mechanised)
6. The application of a bulky top-dressing material (by hand or mechanical distributor)
7. The calibration and use of a fertiliser distributor
8. The initial setting out and marking out of a sports area, or part thereof, to include the use of the 3:4:5 triangle for the creation of right angles, plus the creation of a circle, semi or quartercircle
9. The maintenance of a drainage system
10. The maintenance of an irrigation system
11. The production of a suitable surface for the laying of turf, including the actual turfing activity
12. Identification of the following (Details of the range of required named identifications are given in Annex B):
  - 4 - 6 turfgrasses
  - 14 - 30 turf
  - weeds ○ 4 - 6 soil
  - types ○ 4 - 6
  - pests ○ 4 - 6
  - diseases ○ 4 - 6
  - disorders

It is anticipated that the expected cost of the end point assessment will be up to 20% of the cost of the apprenticeship. These costs will need to cover the allocation of assessment slots, recruitment, time and maintenance of an Independent Assessor network, as well as the creation of a databank of knowledge assessment questions and the creation and maintenance of practical assessment parameters by an Independent Assessment Organisation.

### End Point - final judgement

The Groundsmanship Employer Trailblazer Group expects apprentices to be assessed in a fair and consistent way, without any doubt as to the credibility of achievement, which is recognisable across the UK and indeed the world.

The Independent Assessment Organisation will make the final judgement as to the achievement and grading of a candidate's capability.

To ensure all candidates are clear about the differentials of pass, merit and distinction especially in terms of the practical skills tasks, the Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations will develop and make available the required tasks (see Annex B) with clear descriptions, which identify distinct and measurable criteria and parameters for the grades.

For indicative purposes the following initial grade descriptors will apply to differentiate between pass, merit and distinction:

- A candidate who has achieved a 'Pass' will have exceeded the minimum requirement 60% for the synoptic knowledge assessment, of two theory papers, but not the threshold for a merit or above. They will have carried out the practical skills tasks in a competent way within defined parameters for the set criteria, ensuring health and safety was complied with at all times and that the tasks were completed in a timely manner. They can clearly and confidently identify 'why' and 'when' the tasks are required and identify the impact or consequences of different equipment settings or applied materials on the surface which the tasks are being assessed on.
- A candidate who has achieved a 'Merit' will have attained between 70% and 84% for the synoptic knowledge assessment, of two theory papers. They will have carried out the practical skills tasks in a competent way, within defined and narrower parameters than required for a 'Pass' grade for the set criteria, ensuring health and safety was complied with at all times and that the tasks were completed in a timely manner. They can clearly and confidently describe 'why' and 'when' the tasks are required and describe the impact or consequences of different equipment settings or applied materials on the surface which the tasks are being assessed on.
- A candidate who has achieved a 'Distinction' will have exceeded 85% for the synoptic knowledge assessment, of two theory papers. They will have carried out the practical skills tasks in a competent way, within defined and narrower parameters than required for a 'Merit' grade for the set criteria, ensuring health and safety was complied with at all times and that the tasks were completed in a timely manner. They can clearly and confidently explain 'why' and 'when' the tasks are required and explain the impact or consequences of different equipment settings or applied materials on the surface which the tasks are being assessed on.

**Internal Quality Assurance**

The Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations will be responsible for quality assuring the end-point assessments that will take place in workplaces across England. The Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations will, by attachment or through deployment, coordinate the Independent Assessors as required across the regions and ensure their independence. This process will be overseen by a senior officer at the Apprenticeship Assessment Organisation acting in a Quality Assurance (QA) role. He/she will have responsibility for moderation and quality assurance practices such as standardisation meetings and conducting peer observations of Independent Assessors.

**End-point - Summary of roles and responsibilities**

**Employer** - support the apprentice on their learning programme, agreeing, with the training provider, that the apprentice can be put forward for the end point assessment only once they are satisfied that the apprentice will be able to demonstrate all the requirements of the standard.

**Training Provider** - deliver an agreed, with the apprentice and employer, learning programme, track learner progress, agree with the employer that the apprentice can be put forward for the end point assessment only once they are satisfied that the apprentice will be able to demonstrate all the requirements of the standard.

**Independent Assessment Organisation** - administers the end-point assessment process, designing the assessment papers, practical assessments and assessing the apprentice, making the final judgement on fail, pass, merit or distinction.

**Quality Assurance - external**

An annual, not for profit, standardisation event will be carried out by the IOG and that they will work with any other relevant Professional Bodies, or other relevant bodies, in the sector of the grounds care industry involved with sports turf operatives, including with involvement from employers and all the Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations. There will be no pre-selection of Assessment Organisations to get onto the register or to attend events to ensure an open and transparent standardisation event occurs.

Activities covered within the annual standardisation event will typically include a sampling and review of the assessment tools and techniques used for the end point assessment; a sampling and review of the assessments undertaken by candidates, across a range of grades, including re-marking exercise of anonymised assessments to ensure a common understanding and interpretation of the assessment and marking criteria and an observation of a practical assessment (this may be a video recorded complete assessment, or live assessment).

### End-point - Grading

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

A minimum of 60% of the marks available must be achieved in both of the two end point assessment components, with the marks from both components being weighted (by 40% for the written and 60% for the practical) and then totalled to achieve an overall percentage for grading. Failing to achieve a minimum of 60% in a component will only require that component to be attempted again at a future date, following completion of adequate additional learning in the component part that was failed. The additional cost of any resit attempts will only be met by the apprenticeship funding mechanism where adequate additional learning has been undertaken and evidenced.

Failure to achieve a combined percentage of 60% or greater will see the standard not being achieved.

The overall grading is:

- Distinction: 85% - 100%
- Merit: 70% - 84%
- Pass: 60% - 69%
- Fail: This is where an apprentice has not achieved a minimum of 60% in both of the components

### Implementation

Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations wishing to operate in the Groundsmanship field must apply to and be approved under the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) administered Register of Apprentice Assessment Organisations.

Consistency of approach by assessors of any and all Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations will be achieved through training and regular standardisation of all the independent assessors involved in the assessment process. This will cover an understanding of the overall apprenticeship; knowledge of

the detailed standard; the grading standards; examples of relevant evidence and sample scoring exercises. The standardisation events will be organised by each Apprenticeship Assessment Organisation.

Prospective Assessment Organisations wishing to be approved to operate sports turf end point assessments must as a minimum:

- have experience of development and design of assessments
- show experience of developing assessment support materials for groundsmanship stakeholders
- provide evidence of staff background experience in the groundsmanship sector
- show experience of working with a range of different employers and providers of groundsmanship training, especially those with modern facilities where learning and skills can be assessed
- provide evidence of working with or have the potential to train and develop a field force of Independent Assessors that are minimum Level 3 qualified in groundsmanship and experienced and qualified in the assessment profession.
- provide evidence if IT infrastructure and/or on line facilities for the secure collection of learner data for the purpose of registration and the process for applying for end assessment appointments

**Flexibility and Affordability**

The flexibility and affordability built into this assessment model is critical to its ability to cater for all types and sizes of business and organisation within the sports turf industry. The following key points deliver this:

- By not prescribing a qualification (although recommended options have been given in this assessment plan: Annex C) employers will have the freedom to work with their providers to personalise a proficiency programme that is integrated and helps to prepare apprentices for end point assessment
- Use of a 'Record of Progress', which tracks all the requirements of the standard, will inform the timing of the final assessment
- The option to vary the amount of support required from the training provider to meet the needs of an apprentice. This can be discussed and tailored (utilising the training provider's expertise) during contract discussions and will also include an estimate of the cost for the End Point Assessment.

**Professional Body recognition**

Upon achievement of this Standard the apprentice will be eligible to join the IOG Register of Turf Management Professionals.

## Annex A. Level 2 Apprenticeship Standard for a Sports Turf Operative

1. **Occupation:** A Sports Turf Operative, which might also be referred to as a Groundsperson or Grounds Maintenance Operative.
2. **Occupational profile:** This occupation exists to ensure that public and private sports facilities are available for use by the public and ensures facilities are available to support the Government policy of increasing physical activity.

A Sports Turf Operative is responsible for the maintenance and renovation and overall appearance of one or more sports turf surfaces in accordance with the needs of the particular sport. It is their job to maintain an appropriate quality playing surface which reflects the carrying capacity of that surface to ensure that a sustainable playing surface is provided.

The career as a Sports Turf Operative can be quite varied, potentially working across a wide range of different sports and venues, including athletics, bowls, cricket, croquet, football, hockey, horse racing, rugby league and union, tennis and ranging from general parks type sports surfaces up to first class stadia. Working in the outdoor environment is a healthy and therapeutic activity, which contributes to the well-being of employees as well as users of sports surfaces. With the vast range of natural or artificial turf pitches available, throughout the UK and world-wide, now is an excellent time to join this well-established and dynamic profession.

**3a. Requirements – Knowledge:** The knowledge which underpins the required skills will allow a Sports Turf Operative to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the principles of the maintenance and renovation requirements of different sports turf surfaces which are appropriate to their level of apprenticeship and the specific needs of the industry sector. These are:

- Compliance with environmental and health and safety legislation and regulations
- Compliance with policies and procedures – company, client, health and safety risk assessments, rules of the game from the different Governing Bodies of Sport
- The identification and correct application of materials, tools, equipment and machinery used in maintenance and renovation activities
- Identification and understanding of different grasses, soil types, weeds, pests, diseases, turf disorders, artificial surfacing material, underlays, infill material, turf and soil reinforcement material, line marking materials
- The principles of photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration in the growth and development of plants
- The impact of weather, ground conditions and usage on pitch quality and playing quality
- The different Performance Quality Standards for a range of different sports turf surfaces
- How to minimise waste and reduce environmental impacts
- How to monitor, record and report basic grounds maintenance findings.

**3b. Requirements – Skills:** The Sports Turf Operative must be able to apply the knowledge and skills in a logical and systematic approach and demonstrate a positive work ethic in achieving the desired outcomes from the sports surfaces being maintained. In order to do this they will need to be capable of the following:

- Maintain and renovate turf surfaces in a safe and appropriate way to ensure games can take place which provide for a fair, safe and exciting contest for players. This will include the safe use of a range of equipment and machinery, such as mowers, scarifiers, aerators and other specialist turf care equipment, covering hand tools, as well as pedestrian operated, ride-on and tractor mounted implements
- Correctly calibrate equipment for material requirements and apply at the correct rates a range of materials, including grass seed, fertiliser and bulky top-dressing
- Use integrated prevention and control methods to reduce the incidence of diseases, disorders, pests and weeds on turf
- Set and mark out sports areas in accordance with the Laws of the Governing Bodies of Sport
- Maintain tools, equipment and machinery used for maintenance and renovation activities to ensure their safe and effective use
- Maintain and conduct basic routine servicing and repairs to drainage and irrigation systems
- Effectively communicate with others and provide an excellent level of customer service
- Work safely, efficiently and effectively at all times, whether under supervision, as an individual, or in a team.

**3c. Requirements – Behaviours:** Customers demand safe and appropriate quality playing surfaces, which can range from pitches produced on limited budgets to first class televised events where pitches are at the cutting edge of technological developments. The Sports Turf Operative will frequently work in situations involving the general public, customers or commercial events. It is therefore important to ensure an operative is capable of demonstrating certain behaviours at all times, including the following:

Safety orientation	This occupation operates within an industry that has significant hazards and risks from the use of machinery and materials (such as pesticides). The potential for harm to self, others, wildlife and the environment is considerable. There needs to be a competent understanding of health and safety and implementation of these practices at all times.
Positive work ethic	Positive attitude, committed, motivated by providing an excellent customer service and getting the game on wherever possible. Able to adapt to a change in conditions, products, situations and working environments, is dependable, reliable, responsible and responsive to embracing social and cultural diversity and ethical in the treatment of others. Wants to stretch and drive their Continuous Professional Development.
Quality focused	Follows approved procedures and processes in a logical manner, paying attention to detail and applying approved checks throughout work activities to ensure work completed is fit for purpose.

Team player	Able to work on own initiative but also able to interact and communicate effectively within a team applying a respectful professional manner. Able to listen and absorb information, to ask questions when instructions are not understood or unclear and to work within the limitations of the job role.
Contributor to sustainability	Continuously strives to work efficiency and effectively to assist others in activities as appropriate to the job role. Aware of the financial, social and environmental impacts of their actions.

**4. Duration:** The apprenticeship will typically take 18-24 months to complete.

**5. Professional Recognition:** This standard is recognised by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), the Professional Body for Sports Turf Operatives and others working in the grounds care industry. Upon achievement of this standard the apprentice will be eligible to join the IOG register of Turf Management Professionals.

**6. Review:** The apprenticeship will be reviewed after 3 years.

## Annex B. Assessment details

### Practical Assessment

All individual practical assessments are to be graded Fail, Pass, Merit and Distinction:

1. The use of a pedestrian operated mechanised cylinder mower
2. The use of a ride-on mower
3. The use of one tractor mounted implement (powered or non-powered)
4. The use of a scarifier (hand or mechanised)
5. The use of an aerator (hand or mechanised)
6. The application of a bulky top-dressing material (by hand or mechanical distributor)
7. The calibration and use of a fertiliser distributor
8. The initial setting out and marking out of a sports area, or part thereof, to include the use of the 3:4:5 triangle for the creation of right angles, plus the creation of a circle, semi or quartercircle
9. The maintenance of a drainage system
10. The maintenance of an irrigation system
11. The production of a suitable surface for the laying of turf, including the actual turfing activity
12. Identifications

Correctly identify and state the correct botanical name for turfgrasses.

1. Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*);
2. Either Browntop bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) or Highland bent (*Agrostis castellana*)
3. Creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*);
4. One red fescue from either Chewings fescue (*Festuca rubra* ssp *commutata*, syn. *Festuca nigrescens*); Strong creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra* ssp *rubra*) or Slender creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra* ssp *litoralis*);
5. Annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*);
6. Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*).

Correctly identify and state the correct botanical name for turf weeds

#### Asteraceae (Compositae)

- Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*),
- Daisy (*Bellis perennis*),
- Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*),
- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*),
- Mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*).

#### Bryophyta (Mosses):

- Upright type (e.g. *Polytrichum juniperinum*), • Trailing type (e.g. *Hypnum cupressiforme*),
- Cushion type (e.g. *Ceratodon purpureus*).

#### Caryophyllaceae

- Common mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*),
- Procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*).

#### Fabaceae

- Common bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*),
- Lesser trefoil (Suckling clover) (*Trifolium dubium*) • Black medick (*Medicago lupulina*),
- White clover (*Trifolium repens*).

#### Geraniaceae

- Dove's-foot Crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*)

#### Juncaceae

- Field wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*).

#### Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

- Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*).

Plantaginaceae

- Greater (Broad leaved) plantain (*Plantago major*), • Ribwort (Narrow leaved) plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)
- Buck's-horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*).

Polygonaceae

- Either Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), or Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*),
- Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*).

Ranunculaceae

- Bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), • Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*),
- Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*).

Rosaceae

- Creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*),
- Parsley piert (*Aphanes arvensis*),
- Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*).

Scrophulariaceae

- Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), • Slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*).

Correctly identify and state the correct name for soil types

- Sand
- Loamy sand
- Sandy loam
- Sandy silt loam
- Silt loam
- Sandy clay loam
- Clay loam
- Silty clay loam
- Sandy clay
- Clay
- Silty clay

Correctly identify turf pests, the damage caused by turf pests and state the correct scientific name for turf pests:

1. Cockchafer grub (Insect) (*Melolontha melolontha*),

2. Earthworm (Annelid) – Any one of the names of the three primary surface casting species only required (*Aporrectodea longa*, *Aporrectodea caliginosa*, *Lumbricus terrestris*),
3. Leatherjacket grub (Insect) (The names of the two common *Tipula* species: *T. paludosa*, *T. oleracea*, only required),
4. Common Mole (Mammal) (*Talpa europaea*),
5. Nematode (Phylum: *Nematoda* only required),
6. Rabbit (Mammal) (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).

Correctly identify turf diseases, the damage caused by turf diseases and state the correct scientific name for turf diseases:

1. Anthracnose (Basal Rot)(*Colletotrichum cereale*),
2. Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*),
3. Fairy rings - (Type 1 or Type 2 or Type 3) – (acceptable example of a correct Genus name only required, e.g. Type 1: *Marasmius* spp; Type 2: *Lycoperdon* spp; Type 3: *Hygrophorus* spp.)
4. Microdochium (Fusarium) patch (*Microdochium nivale*),
5. Red thread (*Laetisaria fuciformis*),
6. Take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var *avenae*).

Correctly identify the damage caused by, or impact of, turf disorders:

1. Fertiliser scorch
2. Hydraulic oil scorch
3. Dry patch
4. Black layer
5. Drought
6. Compaction

Scoring for the identification assessment:

	Pass (Minimum number of correct identifications)	Merit (Minimum number of correct identifications)	Distinction (Minimum number of correct identifications)
Grasses	4	5	6
Weeds	18	21	25
Soils	4	5	6
Pests	4	5	6
Diseases	4	5	6
Disorders	4	5	6

For the overall grading for the identification practical assessment all sections must achieve a minimum of a pass; to achieve a merit a minimum of 4 of the sections must achieve an individual merit, whilst for a distinction a minimum of 4 of the sections must achieve an individual distinction. Any section which does not achieve the minimum pass requirement will result in the entire identification assessment having to be attempted again in a resit session.

**Scoring for the practical assessments:**

- All twelve practical assessments must achieve a minimum of a pass mark, with points being allocated for each part as follows ○ Pass: 3 points ○ Merit: 4 points ○ Distinction: 5 points

Totals for the 12 practical assessments:

Pass: Minimum 36 points (60% of the 60 available points)

Merit: Minimum 42 points (plus a minimum of 6 practical assessments must have achieved an individual Merit, or above, rating) (70% of the 60 available points)

Distinction: Minimum 51 points (a minimum of 6 practical assessments must therefore have achieved an individual Distinction rating) (85% of the 60 available points)