

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Gardener

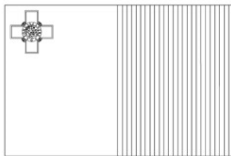
1. Introduction

The following is an assessment criteria to be adopted by the Trade Testing Board (TTB) to reach a final decision on the award of **Certificate of Competence for Gardener**.

2. Trade Test

The trade test is to be made up of the following components:

1. Written Test
2. Interview
3. Practical Test



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The markings allocated to each specific component are as follows:

| Component | Mark | Pass Mark |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Written | 100 | 50% |
| Interview | 100 | 50% |
| Practical | 100 | 50% |

The Written Test

Candidates are required to sit for a written test of 1.5 hour duration. The test can be carried out in Maltese or English and consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions.

The questions of the written test paper will cover topics such as:

- a. Soil preparation and knowledge of soil types and growing mediums
- b. Fertilisers and plant nutrients – type, use and application rates
- c. Cultivation of flowers- Knowledge of annuals
- d. Plant types:
 - a. where and when to plant trees, shrubs, annuals, climbers, bulbs and succulents
 - b. indigenous and non indigenous plant species
- e. Plant care and handling
- f. Nutrients, deficiency, diseases and control
- g. Knowledge and use of pesticides
- h. Seed propagation (Outdoor/Indoor)
- i. Propagation methods- By cutting, air layering, bulbs, by division etc
- j. Collection of seed and storage of seeds from year to year
- k. Garden maintenance- Pruning ornamental shrubs & trees, fruit trees including citrus & vines.
- l. Hedge trimming and grass cutting
- m. Composting and mulching
- n. Irrigation systems and water management layout
- o. Specific crop- Production of seasonal flowers
- p. Landscaping- planning a garden, plot of land
- q. Health and safety at work

The Interview

All candidates will be called for an interview during which the Board will be able to assess the proficiency and competence of the candidate related to the field of Gardening.

The Interview questions will cover the following topics:

- a. Work experience
- b. Health & safety
- c. Aptitude towards field and manual work
- d. Attitude and forming part of a team
- e. Care and maintenance of lawn
- f. Technical questions- mostly those covered in the written test

The Board believes that the candidate should answer questions on the above topics with confidence while portraying technical skills and knowledge of the subject.

The Practical Test

During the practical test the candidate will be assessed on the following:

- 1 Health & safety at work
- 2 Use of machinery including the use of: Rotary cultivator, Strimmer, Lawn Mower, Hedge Trimmer, Chainsaw, Grass Cutting
- 3 Basic maintenance of machinery
- 4 Machinery safety
- 5 Use of hand tools
- 6 Types of soil and their management
- 7 Pest and disease identification
- 8 Identification of seeds
- 9 Preparation of cuttings/potting/seedbed, seed sowing
- 10 Bedding plant preparation
- 11 Planting of annuals
- 12 Planting of bulbs