

Key Stage 4 Long-Term Plan: City and Guilds Practical Horticulture Skills

Years Covered: 10-11		Academic Years: 2026-2028	
Exam Board: City and Guilds	Qualification: Practical Horticulture Skills		Specification Code: 7573
Progression from KS3	Preparation for post 16		
Assessment overview			
Assessment Type	Weighting	When	Content Covered
Practical Demonstration/ Assignment	100%	End of Year 11 (on-demand when ready)	All skill areas
Observed practical tasks (teacher assessed, externally QA'd)	Observed practical tasks (teacher assessed, externally QA'd)	Included in above	Prior to final exam

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Year 10

Half Term	Topic/Unit	Key Knowledge & Skills	Assessment	Cross-curricular Links
Autumn 1	Foundations or Horticulture, Safety and Basic Groundwork	Why health and safety is important in horticulture The names and uses of basic hand tools How plants and gardens are organised (beds, borders, containers)	Practical observation: Learners safely put on PPE and follow garden safety rules while working outdoors Tool identification check: Learners correctly select and name basic tools for given tasks (rake, fork, trowel) Short practical task: Carry out a simple clearing/raking job under supervision (assessed for safe working practice)	Science – Biology • Plant growth and life cycles • Reproduction in plants (seeds, germination) • Habitats and ecosystems • Materials and their properties (soil types, water retention)
Autumn 2	Soil and Ground Preparation	What soil is and why it is important for plant growth Why soil needs preparing before planting	Practical demonstration: Prepare a small area of ground for planting (digging, loosening, clearing debris) Observation of technique: Correct use of hand tools to break up and level soil safely	Maths • Measurement (length, spacing, depth) • Time (growth cycles, watering schedules) • Estimation and counting

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		What weeds and debris are and why we remove them	Task completion: Learner produces a visibly prepared planting bed suitable for planting	Shape and space (planting layouts, rows)
Spring 1	Planting Skills	What plants need to grow (water, light, soil, space) Why correct planting depth and spacing matters What happens to plants after planting (establishment phase)	Practical planting assessment: Plant container-grown plants at correct depth and position Watering technique check: Water newly planted area correctly (no overwatering/underwatering) Plant handling observation: Safe, gentle handling of plants and roots during planting process	English/ Communication - Instruction following - Vocabulary building - Speaking and listening - Sequencing and explanation
Spring 2	Plant Care: Watering, Weeding and Mulching	Why plants need regular watering and how over/under watering affects them	Watering assessment: Water a bed or container area using correct method and equipment	Personal Development - Responsibility and independence - Health and safety

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		What weeds are and how they compete with plants What mulch is and why it helps soil and plant growth	Weeding task: Identify and remove common weeds by hand without damaging cultivated plants Mulching demonstration: Apply mulch evenly to a planted area	- Working with others - Routine building
Summer 1	Seeds and Growing Plants	What seeds are and how plants reproduce What conditions seeds need to germinate Why seedlings need care before planting out	Seed sowing assessment: Sow seeds into trays or containers following instructions Germination care observation: Maintain seedlings (watering, positioning, monitoring growth) Potting on task: Move seedlings into larger pots safely without damage	Work Related Learning - Job roles and skills - Work routines and expectations - Using tools safely - Following instructions from a supervisor
Summer 2	Personal Garden projects	How seasonal changes affect plant care tasks	Integrated garden task: Complete a full maintenance routine (weed, water, mulch, tidy)	

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		Why gardens need ongoing maintenance How different horticulture tasks link together (planting → care → growth)	Independent practical assessment: Carry out planting or ground preparation with minimal support Final portfolio evidence: Demonstrate competence across multiple skills in one session	

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Year 11

Half Term	Topic/Unit	Key Knowledge & Skills	Assessment	Cross-curricular Links
Autumn 1	Working at Level 2 Safety Standard	Legal and practical health & safety responsibilities in horticulture Correct selection and maintenance of horticultural tools and equipment Professional behaviours in a horticultural workplace	Practical observation of safe tool use under minimal supervision Risk awareness demonstration during outdoor tasks Tool selection task (choose correct tool for job and justify verbally)	• PSHE: responsibility, workplace behaviour • English: explaining choices and instructions • Science: material durability and tool function
Autumn 2	Preparing Soil for Planting and Improving Soil Conditions	Soil structure, texture, and drainage at a functional level	Prepare a planting area independently to specification Demonstrate correct digging/cultivation technique	• Science: soil systems, water movement, ecosystems • Maths: area coverage, spacing, quantities of material

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		Methods of improving soil (cultivation, organic matter) Purpose of ground preparation in plant establishment	Observation of weed control and site preparation	Geography: land use and soil types
Spring 1	Planting Design and Establishing Plants	Plant establishment requirements (root space, water, nutrients) Planting methods for different plant types (containers, bare-root basics) Importance of spacing and layout in plant growth	Independent planting task (bed or container scheme) Accuracy of spacing and depth assessed Post-planting care demonstration	- Maths: measurement, spacing, layout patterns - Art: design of planting schemes - Science: plant growth and adaptation

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Spring 2	Plant Maintenance: Pruning, Feeding and Care	Purpose of pruning (health, shape, flowering) Basic fertiliser use and plant nutrition Plant stress signs and responses	Observation of pruning technique and plant response Fertiliser application task under supervision Maintenance of a planted area over time (portfolio evidence)	- Science: plant biology, nutrient cycles - PSHE: responsibility for living systems - Maths: dosage/quantity calculations
Summer 1	Propagation and Production	Sexual and asexual reproduction in plants Conditions required for germination and propagation Purpose of propagation in horticulture production	Seed sowing task assessed for accuracy and technique Propagation success tracked over time Potting-on demonstration (plant handling assessed)	Science: reproduction and life cycles Maths: counting, spacing, timing English: sequencing instructions
Summer 2	Synoptic Assessment: Applying skills in real garden contexts	Principles of basic landscaping (layout, function, maintenance)	Multi-skill practical assessment (planting,	Geography: land use and environmental management

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		Turf care basics (if available) or alternative maintenance systems How horticultural tasks combine in real job roles	pruning, maintenance combined) Independent completion of a garden task to specification Portfolio evidence showing progression across units	• Maths: planning layouts and measuring spaces • Employability: workplace readiness and independence