



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Horticulturist

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 Horticulturist.

2. Trade Test

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

1. Written Test
2. Interview
3. Practical Test

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:

- Knowledge of types of soil in Malta, soil preparation, knowledge of growing mediums
- Fertilisers and plant nutrients – type, use and application rates
- Cultivation of flowers- Cut flower production (open grounds and under cover)
- Intensive crop production
- Nutrient deficiency diseases and control
- Knowledge and use of pesticides
- Seed propagation
- Irrigation systems and water management
- Protected cropping
- Specific crop- market gardening
- Planning an orchard
- Transplanting
- Health and safety at work
- Budding and grafting
- Cultivation of fruit trees, olives, citrus and vines

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 Horticulture.

The Interview questions will cover the following topics:

Work experience

Health & safety

Aptitude towards field and manual work

Attitude and ability to lead a team

Cultivation of vines & olive trees

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: Cultivation, Strimmer, Harrowing rotovation
- 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