



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI  
Eswatini General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**AGRICULTURE**

**6882/03**

**Paper 3**

**Specimen Paper October/ November 2024-2026**

**Practical Task: Planting fruit trees**

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***Confidential***

**MARK SCHEME**

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**Practical Task: Planting fruit trees (four fruit trees)**

Candidates are to plant a fruit tree.

**Duration: one day**

**OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the practical the candidate must be able to:

1. Clear the land
2. Dig a planting hole for a fruit tree
3. Plant a fruit tree
4. Stake the fruit tree
5. Protect the fruit tree

**Instructions:**

- Collect all relevant tools and materials
- Clear the land
- Dig the planting hole
- Add compost; animal manure
- Add basal dressing fertiliser
- Mix properly the organic /inorganic fertilizer with the top soil
- Plant the fruit tree
- Stake the tree
- Protect it from damage

**Materials / Equipment**

- **Materials**
  - Compost / animal manure
  - 2:3:2 (22) + zinc
  - Fruit trees
  - Peg for staking
  - Material for protection (pegs/fence)
- **Equipment**
  - Spade
  - Watering can
  - Tape measure

1. **Responsibility** [ the ability to assume responsibility for the task in hand, and work from given instructions without detailed supervision and help]

| Descriptors   | Marks  | Comment |
|---|--------|---------|
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task according to the standard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects all relevant tools and materials</li> <li>• Clears the land</li> <li>• Dig the planting hole</li> <li>• Add organic and inorganic fertilisers</li> <li>• Plant the fruit tree</li> <li>• Stake the fruit tree</li> <li>• Protect the fruit tree</li> </ul>   | 5 or 4 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards slightly compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects most of the relevant tools and materials</li> <li>• Clears the land with some help</li> <li>• Assisted to dig the planting hole</li> <li>• Informed to add organic and inorganic fertiliser</li> <li>• Needed assistance in planting the fruit tree</li> <li>• Assisted in staking the fruit tree</li> <li>• Reminded to protect the fruit tree from animals</li> </ul>  | 3 or 2 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards severely compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects some of the relevant tools and materials</li> <li>• Clears the land with more help</li> <li>• Dig the planting hole with considerable help</li> <li>• Reminded several times to add organic and inorganic fertilisers</li> <li>• Needed considerable help to plant the fruit tree</li> <li>• Compelled to stake the fruit tree</li> <li>• Needed considerable help in protecting the plant from animals</li> </ul> | 1 or 0 |         |

2. **Initiative** [ the ability to cope with problems arising in connection with the task to see what needs to be done and to take effective action]

| Descriptors  | Marks  | Comment |
|--|--------|---------|
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task according to the standard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark the dimension of the planting hole to the correct size (60cm x 60cm)</li> <li>• Remove all the debris in the planting area</li> <li>• Make a thick earth basin around the planting hole</li> <li>• Water the fruit tree regularly</li> </ul>              | 5 or 4 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards slightly compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark the dimension of the planting hole with dimension not accurate</li> <li>• Remove some of the debris in the planting area</li> <li>• Make a thin earth basin around the planting hole</li> <li>• Water the fruit tree after some days</li> </ul> | 3 or 2 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards severely compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dimensions of the planting hole not measured</li> <li>• Remove fewer debris in the planting area</li> <li>• Make a shallow earth basin around the planting hole</li> <li>• Water the fruit tree after more days</li> </ul>                           | 1 or 0 |         |

**3. Technique** [ the ability to tackle a practical task in methodical, systematic way and to handle tools skilfully and to good effect]

| Descriptors  | Marks  | Comment |
|--|--------|---------|
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task according to the standard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hole properly prepared in a square of 60cm x 60cm</li> <li>• Top soil piled separately from subsoil</li> <li>• Cut the bottom of the plastic bag without breaking the soil loose</li> <li>• Place the fruit tree at the centre of the hole</li> <li>• Plastic bag gently removed</li> <li>• Fill the planting hole with top soil first</li> <li>• Stake the fruit tree without damaging the roots</li> <li>• Protect the fruit tree from animals by constructing a proper barrier</li> </ul>   | 5 or 4 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards slightly compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hole prepared with one correct side</li> <li>• Top and subsoil mixed</li> <li>• Cut the bottom of the plastic bag with some soil getting loose</li> <li>• Place the fruit tree at the centre of the hole with the stem slightly tilting</li> <li>• Plastic bag removed with some soil disturbance</li> <li>• Fill the planting hole with both the top and sub soil at the same time</li> <li>• Stake the fruit tree with a sloping peg</li> <li>• Protect the fruit tree from animals but the barrier has wide openings</li> </ul> | 3 or 2 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards severely compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hole prepared without forming a square. Both sides not 60cm x 60cm</li> <li>• Top soil piled separately from subsoil</li> <li>• Cut the bottom of the plastic bag with more soil being lost</li> <li>• Fruit tree not placed at the centre of the hole</li> <li>• Plastic bag removed with more soil disturbances from the roots</li> <li>• Fill the planting hole with sub soil first</li> <li>• Stake the fruit tree with roots disturbed</li> <li>• Protect the fruit tree from animals but the barrier is weak.</li> </ul> | 1 or 0 |         |

4. **Perseverance** [ the ability to see a task through to a successful conclusion with determination and sustained effort]

| Descriptors   | Marks  | Comment |
|---|--------|---------|
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task according to the standard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects all debris after clearing</li> <li>• Digs all the planting holes</li> <li>• All the planting holes made square</li> <li>• All fruit tree watered consistently</li> <li>• All fruit tree properly staked</li> <li>• All fruit trees protected from animals</li> </ul>                                 | 5 or 4 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards slightly compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects some debris after clearing</li> <li>• Digs some of the planting holes</li> <li>• Some planting holes made square</li> <li>• Some fruit tree watered with long interval in between</li> <li>• Some fruit tree properly staked</li> <li>• Some fruit trees protected from animals</li> </ul> | 3 or 2 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards severely compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects few debris after clearing</li> <li>• Digs one planting holes</li> <li>• Few planting holes made square</li> <li>• One fruit tree watered with very long intervals in between</li> <li>• One fruit tree properly staked</li> <li>• One fruit trees protected from animals</li> </ul>        | 1 or 0 |         |

**5. Quality** [ the ability to attend to detail, so that the work is well finished and is well presented]

| Descriptors   | Marks  | Comment |
|---|--------|---------|
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task according to the standard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the planting holes were properly prepared</li> <li>• Fruit tree placed at the centre of the hole</li> <li>• Fruit tree properly staked and stake tied to the plant</li> <li>• A round and thick earth basin made around the plant</li> <li>• Mulch placed around the plant and not touching the stem</li> <li>• A protection barrier constructed a distance around the fruit tree</li> </ul>                            | 5 or 4 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards slightly compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the planting holes were properly prepared</li> <li>• Fruit tree placed at the centre of the hole but tilled</li> <li>• Fruit tree staked with stake loosely attached to the plant</li> <li>• A round and thin earth basin made around the plant</li> <li>• Mulch placed around the plant with mulch touching the stem</li> <li>• A protection barrier constructed very close to the fruit tree</li> </ul> | 3 or 2 |         |
| <p><b>Candidate completed the task with standards severely compromised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few planting holes were properly prepared</li> <li>• Fruit tree placed closer to one side of the hole</li> <li>• Fruit tree staked but stake not tied to plant</li> <li>• No earth basin made around the plant</li> <li>• No mulch placed around the plant</li> <li>• No barrier constructed around the fruit tree</li> </ul>   | 1 or 0 |         |