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| City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Climbing Trees and Aerial Rescue (0039-22) |

**March 2025 Version 1.4**

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| **Version and date** | **Change detail** | **Section** |
| 1.0 | First version |  |
| 1.1 August 2021 | Assessor instructions updated | Introduction |
| 1.2 October 2021 | AO name added to qualification title  Typos corrected | Throughout |
| 1.3 August 2022 | Formatting changes  Updated logo  Updated ‘Sources of general information’ | Throughout  Front cover  Appendix 2 |
| 1.4 March 2025 | Formatting changes | Throughout |

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Introduction

This assessment relates to the unit in the Qualification handbook. The assessment can be achieved at pass only. If any task is not yet met the candidate is unsuccessful.

This assessment is for unit 203 Tree climbing and aerial rescue covering the following learning outcomes:

1. Climb trees
2. Carry out aerial rescue

General guidance on the requirements for assessment can be found in the Assessor Guidance document available on the City & Guilds web site [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)

The assessor must complete the Practical Table mark sheet for each candidate which should be kept by the assessor for a minimum period of twelve months.

**Record of assessment (ROA)**

A prepopulated record of assessment must be completed by the assessor following an assessment. The number of outcomes is listed above, these must be ticked into the relevant met or not met sections of the ROA.

**ARAS Forms**

An Assessment Result Advice Slip (ARAS form) must be completed by the assessor following an assessment. The ARAS is not a certificate but, based on the evidence of the candidate’s performance, is a recommendation to City & Guilds that the candidate is either met or not met the assessment criteria. All feedback is to be recorded by the assessor on the feedback section of the ARAS form.

**Assessment Time**

The expected assessment time for this qualification is 3 – 4 hours.

**Site/workshop requirements:**

Medium sized open grown tree with suitable crown

Featureless stem/pole with minimum height 6m

**Equipment/Machinery:**

LOLER compliant climbing equipment with documented evidence, for the Candidate and the Assessor

Rescue dummy (meeting standard setting requirements) when required

First aid kit

**Consumables:**

None

This is not an open book assessment, however additional technical information may be sought from the relevant manufacturer’s operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

**Practical observation descriptor table**

### 203 Tree climbing and aerial rescue

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| **Activity number and description from check list** | | **Assessment criteria** |
| **Climbing** | | |
|  | Explain the risk assessment process | The risk assessment process may contain the following five steps:   * identify the hazards * decide who might be harmed and how * evaluate the risks and decide on precautions * record the findings and implement them * review and update the assessment as necessary |
|  | Identify the hazards, risks and controls associated with the site, task | Identify hazards, risks and controls relevant to the site task. |
|  | Outline emergency planning relevant to the working area | Emergency planning relevant to a work site may include:   * site location * grid reference * what three words * designated meeting place * nearest access point * street name/district * type of access (public road/light vehicles, four-wheel drive) * suitable helicopter landing area * phone number of nearest doctors * location of nearest accident and emergency hospital and phone number * works manager contact details * your own contact number/mobile number * other |
|  | Outline responsibilities as an operator under the following | Outline key points from the legislation listed below:  Health and Safety at Work Act (HASWA):   * follow training received * take reasonable care of their own and other people’s safety * other   Operator’s responsibility under LOLER regulations may include:   * equipment should be subject to a pre use check by the climber * a recorded interim inspection should be kept for equipment subject to high levels of wear   Operator’s responsibility under the PPE regulations may include:   * carry out equipment maintenance as per manufactures guidance * correct storage of PPE |
|  | State key point from the work at height regulations | Key point from the work at height regulation is:   * Understand the methods to be used for working at height |
|  | State industry guide relevant to tree climbing and aerial rescue | Industry guides relevant to Tree climbing and aerial rescue:   * Arboricultural Association AA technical guide 1 Tree climbing and aerial rescue |
|  | State personal fall protection performance criteria to consider when tree climbing in accordance with AA guide TG1 | Personal fall protection performance criteria include:   * the system comprises of a primary system and a backup * should be attached to independent anchors where possible * if there is no suitable independent anchor it should be installed over a shared anchor |
|  | State working considerations in relation to tree climbing | Working considerations in relation to tree climbing may include:   * the climbing ropes must be kept as taut as possible and any slack must not exceed 500mm * rope or cord used for friction hitches must be of a suitable type * no potential fall distance exceeds 500mm   + karabiners must have a spring-loaded, self-locking gate that requires at least three distinct movements to open it |
|  | State the basic legal and environmental factors and how they impact on the work | Legal and environmental considerations could include:   * landowners’ permission * Tree preservation order * nesting birds * bat roosts * presence of other valuable flora and fauna * other   Potential impacts:   * stops work from taking place * delays work from taking place * restricts work * other |
|  | Describe the potential environmental damage that could occur and how to respond appropriately | Potential environmental damage may include:   * damage to retained trees * wildlife disturbance * other   Appropriate responses may include:   * work sequence chosen to minimise subsequent damage to retained trees * wildlife assessments completed prior to work * other |
|  | Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work | Potential hazards that may be encountered may include:   * + evidence of cavities, decay or decay fungi   + deadwood and broken branches   + dead or flaking bark   + v shaped unions   + cracks   + nesting insects   + the presence of power lines or telephone wires   + targets and obstacles underneath the tree   + other |
|  | Discuss a working at height assessment | Working at height assessment may include:   * + can the work be carried out from ground level   + the use of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) to prevent a fall   + The use of suitable equipment minimises the distance and consequence of a fall |
|  | Explain how the species, condition of trees and time of year affect the work | Species, condition of tree and time of year may affect tree climbing owing to:   * + brittle timber characteristics leading to weaker anchor points   + dead, diseased, or dying trees may prevent tree climbing taking place   + trees in leaf may reduce visibility and effective communication   + winter months may present problems such as windy conditions, wet or icy branches, extremities of cold   + summer months may present problems such as pollens, dusts, irritants   + other |
|  | Describe how to ensure that access equipment and systems are in safe working order | To ensure access, tree climbing equipment and systems are safe to use operators must ensure:   * pre-use check of equipment/system undertaken * on-going equipment/system checks during climbing * ongoing maintenance * other |
|  | Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer’s instructions and relevant legislation | Candidate to inspect **all** equipment to be used and comment on the condition |
|  | State why it is important to read and understand manufactures information | The importance of reading and understanding manufactures information is:   * correct equipment application * how to correctly configure equipment * compatibility of equipment with other components * maintenance requirements * inspection |

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|  | State different methods used to safely access a tree | Different methods that may be used to access a tree can include:   * + moving rope technique   + stationary rope technique   + ladders   + spikes/climbing irons   + Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP)   + other |
|  | State the difference between a personal fall protection anchor and a positioning anchor | The difference between a personal fall protection anchor and a positioning anchor may be:  Personal fall protection anchor:   * An unquestionably reliable anchor point that supports the full potential load of a climber and equipment   Positioning anchor:   * An anchor that is used to aid the climber with positioning and prevent a pendulum swing |
|  | Select access and tree climbing equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) | Candidate to select compliant PPE and safety clothing for tree climbing to include:   * tree climbing helmet * personal first aid kit/whistle * knife with retractable blade or handsaw * foot protection with good grip and ankle support * non- snag clothing * eye protection   Candidate to select appropriate compliant climbing equipment for tree climbing to include:   * harness * ropes/ lanyards of suitable diameter, length and strength for the climbing lines and for the friction hitches * minimum of triple action auto-locking karabiners for main attachments |
|  | Tie and set a three-knot climbing system | Candidate to demonstrate the ability to tie a three-knot system |
|  | Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree | All anchor points selected taking into consideration:   * size, strength and structure * position in relation to the parts of the tree to be accessed * use of equipment to minimise damage to the tree if appropriate   Candidate establishes their initial anchor points taking into account:   * suitability of the techniques used * accurate installation of equipment * organisation of ropes * safety and position of the anchor points * testing of the anchor points by thorough loading prior to ascent   Technique used takes into account:   * efficient use of technique chosen * candidate is attached to the tree at all times in accordance with industry good practice * appropriate selection of anchor points * appropriate route taken up the tree * correct use of systems when changing anchor points * thorough load testing of new anchor points * risk of a fall is managed at all times * correct use of equipment |
|  | Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown | Candidate to access two points within the crown taking into account:   * appropriate route * slack within systems is no more than 500mm * ropes should be kept in as straight a line as possible to the anchor points * balance and control maintained * efficient rope organisation * controlled movement back into the stem |
|  | Descend tree in a controlled manner and remove equipment appropriately | Descent from trees takes account of:   * + rope length   + speed of descent   + not colliding with obstructions   + safe landing   + controlled removal of equipment |
|  | Describe when aerial rescue by climbing would not be appropriate | Aerial rescue by climbing may not be appropriate owing to:   * dangerous tree structure * additional site hazards such as power-lines present * when additional risk to casualty/rescuer would be incurred * other |

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|  | Explain the key elements of a rescue plan prior to starting work | Key elements of a rescue plan prior to starting work may include:   * + completing the emergency procedures as part of a site risk assessment   + making sure all equipment required for rescue is available   + identifying a competent and designated rescuer   + installation of a rescue line   + first aid equipment is available   + other |
|  | Prepare a rescue plan | Preparing a rescue plan may include:   * emergency procedures as part of the site-specific risk assessment have been comprehensively and accurately completed * equipment required and competent individuals are available * competent and designated aerial rescuer and or emergency co-ordinator have been identified and nominated in that role * first aid equipment is available including tourniquet and haemostatic gauze/cloth * access route into the tree has been determined * method of access has been agreed upon * anchor points have been identified and where practicable pre-installed |
|  | Describe different rescue methods | Different rescue methods may include:   * two-person rescue (pole) * three-person rescue (belay) * Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP) * SRT * other |
|  | Carry out a crown rescue | Candidate to undertake crown rescue using a suitable technique.  Rescue technique is observed taking into account:   * tree accessed and suitable anchor points attained * rescuer reaches the casualty * area around casualty is made safe * rescuer attaches the casualty to the rescuers harness with a direct attachment and attaches a chest strop if required * rescuer reassures the casualty at all times * rescue is conducted with the use of two independent load bearing systems * controlled descent * casualty is guided past branches if applicable * correct use of equipment * efficiency of the rescue |

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|  | Carry out a pole rescue | Candidate to undertake a rescue from a ‘pole’ (standing stem) using climbing irons  The rescue method is observed taking into account:   * pole accessed and suitable false anchor point installed * rescuer secures the casualty to the rescue system * rescuer attaches the casualty to the rescuers harness with a direct attachment, if required * rescuer reassures the casualty at all times * rescuer makes use of help from the casualty where appropriate * rescuer detaches the casualty from the pole, if applicable * in the event of a belay rescue, casualty descent is controlled by ground person under the direction of the rescuer using an appropriate fail - safe method * controlled descent * correct use of equipment * efficiency of the rescue |
|  | Explain how to report the incident in line with organisational requirements | Reporting of the incident in line with an organisation’s requirements may include:   * report to supervisor * record incident details as appropriate * when applicable report to HSE via RIDDOR |
|  | Explain the importance of inspecting equipment following aerial rescue | Importance of inspecting equipment may include:   * to establish if it contributed to the accident * ensuring it is still safe to operate * check for contamination * quarantine equipment * other |
|  | Communicate appropriately with ground staff | Communication between climber and ground staff maintained when appropriate. |
|  | Used appropriate equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) | All tools, equipment and personal protective equipment is used in line with industry good practice |
|  | Carried out work to minimise environmental damage | It is ensured that any possible environmental damage is minimised at all times. |
|  | Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice | All activities must be completed in a way which protects the operator and those around them |

1. Practical tables

### 203 Tree climbing and aerial rescue

**All** criteria must be achieved.

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| **Activity number and description** | **Achieved** |
| **Climbing** | |
| 1. Explain the risk assessment process |  |
| 1. Identify the hazards, risks and controls associated with the site, task |  |
| 1. Outline emergency planning relevant to the working area |  |
| 1. Outline responsibilities as an operator under the following |  |
| 1. State key point from the work at height regulations |  |
| 1. State industry guide relevant to tree climbing and aerial rescue |  |
| 1. State personal fall protection performance criteria to consider when tree climbing in accordance with AA guide TG1 |  |
| 1. State working considerations in relation to tree climbing |  |
| 1. State the basic legal and environmental factors and how they impact on the work |  |
| 1. Describe the potential environmental damage that could occur and how to respond appropriately |  |
| 1. Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work |  |
| 1. Discuss a working at height assessment |  |
| 1. Explain how the species, condition of trees and time of year affect the work |  |
| 1. Describe how to ensure that access equipment and systems are in safe working order |  |
| 1. Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer’s instructions and relevant legislation |  |
| 1. State why it is important to read and understand manufactures information |  |
| 1. State different methods used to safely access a tree |  |
| 1. State the difference between a personal fall protection anchor and a positioning anchor |  |
| 1. Select access and tree climbing equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) |  |
| 1. Tie and set a three-knot climbing system |  |
| 1. Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree |  |
| 1. Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown |  |
| 1. Descend tree in a controlled manner and remove equipment appropriately |  |

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| **Aerial rescue** | |
| 1. Describe when aerial rescue by climbing would not be appropriate |  |
| 1. Explain the key elements of a rescue plan prior to starting work |  |
| 1. Prepare a rescue plan |  |
| 1. Describe different rescue methods |  |
| 1. Carry out a crown rescue |  |
| 1. Carry out a pole rescue |  |
| 1. Explain how to report the incident in line with organisational requirements |  |
| 1. Explain the importance of inspecting equipment following aerial rescue |  |
| 1. Communicate appropriately with ground staff |  |
| 1. Used appropriate equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) |  |
| 1. Carried out work to minimise environmental damage |  |
| 1. Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice |  |

1. Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to the [*Centre Document Library*](https://www.cityandguilds.com/delivering-our-qualifications/centre-development/centre-document-library)on [*www.cityandguilds.com*](http://www.cityandguilds.com/) or click on the links below:

*[Quality Assurance Standards: Centre Handbook](https://www.cityandguilds.com/-/media/ilm-website/sharepoint-documents/_published-documents/qas-centre-handbook-pdf.ashx?la=en&hash=4A5447E601FBB9B560AAE285C5ECD56173ED22DA)*

This document is for all approved centres and provides guidance to support their delivery of our qualifications. It includes information on

* Centre quality assurance criteria and monitoring activities
* Administration and assessment systems
* Centre-facing support teams at City & Guilds / ILM
* Centre quality assurance roles and responsibilities.

The Centre Handbook should be used to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Centre Contract.

[*Quality Assurance Standards: Centre Assessment*](https://www.cityandguilds.com/-/media/ilm-website/sharepoint-documents/_published-documents/qas-centre-assessment-pdf.ashx?la=en&hash=2E8427DC28E5517AFE5778E08398F69DF48EB554)

This document sets out the minimum common quality assurance requirements for our regulated and non-regulated qualifications that feature centre assessed components. Specific guidance will also be included in relevant qualification handbooks and/or assessment documentation.

It incorporates our expectations for centre internal quality assurance and the external quality assurance methods we use to ensure that assessment standards are met and upheld. It also details the range of sanctions that may be put in place when centres do not comply with our requirements, or actions that will be taken to align centre marking/assessment to required standards. Additionally, it provides detailed guidance on the secure and valid administration of centre-assessments.

[*Access arrangements - When and how applications need to be made to City & Guilds*](https://www.cityandguilds.com/-/media/cityandguilds-site/documents/delivering-our-qualifications/access-arrangements-when-and-how-to-apply-pdf.ashx?la=en&hash=8358C1BB86F242D18E468D771939693867E9CBEE)provides full details of the arrangements that may be made to facilitate access to assessments and qualifications for candidates who are eligible for adjustments in assessment.

The [*Centre Document Library*](https://www.cityandguilds.com/delivering-our-qualifications/centre-development/centre-document-library) also contains useful information on such things as:

* Conducting examinations
* Registering learners
* Appeals and malpractice

**Useful contacts**

Please visit the Contact Us section of the City & Guilds website, [*Contact us*](https://www.cityandguilds.com/help/contact-us)

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