

City & Guilds Level 2 CPD Module in Climbing Trees and Aerial Rescue (0041-03)

Version 1.0 August 2025

Assessment Pack – Centres/Candidates

Version and date	Change detail	Section
1.0 August 2025	Initial version	All

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1 Introduction

This assessment is for **Unit 003 Climbing Trees and Aerial Rescue** in the Qualification Handbook, covering the following learning outcomes:

LO1 Climb trees

LO2 Carry out aerial rescue

The assessment can be achieved at pass only.

Skills Evaluation

The assessor will complete a skills evaluation for each candidate. Each activity in the skills evaluation will be scored 1-5 based on the score descriptors in section 2. The list of activities in the skills evaluation is provided in section 3. The assessment criteria for each activity are shown in section 4.

Record of assessment (ROA)

Centres must pre-populate the first section of the ROA and provide this to the assessor. The assessor will record skills evaluation scores, results and feedback (assessor and candidate) using the ROA and submit it to the centre following the assessment.

Pre-requisites

Learners must have achieved the pre-requisite Certificates of Competence (CoCs) listed below before they can be registered for this qualification.

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

*Equivalent, regulated Certificates of Competence (CoCs) from other awarding organisations are acceptable.

**Equivalent legacy City and Guilds Certificates of Competence (CoCs) are acceptable.

Assessment Conditions

The following must be applied to the assessment of this qualification:

- Assessment methodology: **Non-Independent Assessment**
- Assessment duration: **1.5 - 3 hours**
- Expected maximum number of candidates per day: **4**
- Maximum recommended number of candidates to assessor is **1*:1**
***a second candidate can be used as the rescue casualty**
- The qualification handbook and assessment pack must **not** be available to candidates during the assessment
- Additional technical information can be sought from the relevant manufacturer's operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Site/workshop requirements:

- Medium sized open grown tree with suitable crown
- Featureless stem/pole with minimum height 6m

Machinery/equipment

- 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

- n/a

Supporting information

All equipment and machinery used in the delivery of the unit must comply with manufacturer's guidelines and the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998, and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998.

All persons must comply with current regulations when working at heights: Work at Height Regulations 2005 (as amended).

Learners should be familiar with all equipment and machinery that they are going to operate. Equipment and machines must be used/operated in such a way that the learner, assessor, other persons or equipment/machinery are not endangered.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times.

A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available. It is strongly recommended that candidates hold at least a recent, recognised 'Emergency First Aid' Training Certificate. Assessors must hold a current 'First Aid at Work' Certificate.

Assessors must ensure a risk assessment is carried out, and sufficient control measures are implemented.

A breach of Health and Safety that puts any person at risk during the assessment process will result in the assessment being terminated and the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

Provision must be made to comply with environmental and sustainability regulations and standards; segregation of resources for reuse, recycling and disposal should be implemented.

If these conditions are not observed this will result in the learner not completing the skills evaluation.

1 Skills evaluation score descriptors

The descriptors in the table below will be used to assign a score for each activity in the skills evaluation.

Score	Descriptor
1	A poor level of skill/knowledge, potentially requiring intervention or termination of the assessment on the grounds of safety. It would be recommended that the candidate carries out no further work in the topic until further training has been completed.
2	A less than sufficient level of technical skills/knowledge demonstrated. It would be recommended that further training and consolidation in the topic should be sought.
3	Sufficient level of technical skills/knowledge. Candidate worked at the minimum standard for the topic, complying with industry good practice. Candidate should continue as demonstrated and consolidate their skills/knowledge.
4	A good level of technical skills/knowledge. Candidate worked above the minimum standard for the topic, complying with industry good practice while working efficiently. Candidate should continue as demonstrated and consolidate their skills/knowledge.
5	Excellent technical skills/knowledge. Candidate consistently worked above the minimum standard for the topic, complying with industry good practice while working highly efficiently. Candidate should continue as demonstrated.

To achieve an overall Pass result, candidates must score a minimum of 3 for **each** activity in the skills evaluation. A score of 2 or below for **any** activity will automatically result in a Fail overall.

2 Skills evaluation

Activity number and description		Score				
Climb trees		1	2	3	4	5
1	Carry out a risk assessment specific to the site and the task	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2	Set-up site in accordance with the risk assessment and AA guide TG1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3	Select and wear appropriate compliant personal protective equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4	State personal fall protection performance criteria to consider when tree climbing in accordance with AA guide TG1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5	Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Discuss a working at height assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carry out aerial rescue						
10	Prepare a rescue plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11	Describe different rescue methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
12	Undertake an appropriate crown rescue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Undertake an appropriate pole rescue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Communicate appropriately with ground staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Used appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
16	Carried out work to minimise environmental damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Result:						
To achieve an overall Pass result, candidates must score a minimum of 3 for each activity in the skills evaluation. A score of 2 or below for any activity will automatically result in a Fail.						

3 Skills evaluation descriptor table

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
Climb Trees		
1	Carry out a risk assessment specific to the site and the task (Topic 1.1)	Identify hazards, risks and controls relevant to the site and the task.
2	Set-up site in accordance with the risk assessment and AA guide TG1 (Topic 1.2)	Set up site in accordance with the site-specific risk assessment and site specification Worksite layout factors to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work zone: an area where hazards may be encountered • drop zone: an area where it is anticipated materials may fall • exclusion zone: the overall operational area • other
3	Select and wear appropriate compliant personal protective equipment (Topic 1.3)	Compliant PPE and safety clothing for tree climbing to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
4	State personal fall protection performance criteria to consider when tree climbing in accordance with AA guide TG1 (Topic 1.4)	Personal fall protection performance criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
5	Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work (Topic 1.5)	Potential hazards that may be encountered may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
Climb Trees		
6	Discuss a working at height assessment (Topic 1.6)	Working at height assessment considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
7	Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation (Topic 1.7)	Candidate to present evidence of LOLER compliance, inspect all equipment and comment on condition.
8	Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree (Topic 1.8)	<p>All anchor points selected taking into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Candidate establishes their initial anchor points taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Technique used takes into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
Climb Trees		
9	Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown (Topic 1.9)	<p>Candidate to access two points within the crown taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Descent from trees takes account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rope length • speed of descent • not colliding with obstructions • safe landing • controlled removal of equipment

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
Carry out aerial rescue		
10	Prepare a rescue plan (Topic 2.1)	<p>Preparing a rescue plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
11	Describe different rescue methods (Topic 2.2)	<p>Different rescue methods may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two-person rescue (pole) • three-person rescue (belay) • Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP) • single rope technique (SRT)

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
Carry out aerial rescue		
12	Undertake an appropriate crown rescue (Topic 2.3)	<p>Candidate to undertake crown rescue using a suitable technique.</p> <p>Rescue technique is observed taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
13	Undertake an appropriate pole rescue (Topic 2.4)	<p>Candidate to undertake a rescue from a 'pole' (standing stem) using climbing irons</p> <p>The rescue method is observed taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
14	Communicate appropriately with ground staff (Topic 2.5)	Communication between climber and ground staff maintained when appropriate.
15	Used appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) (Topic 2.6)	All tools, equipment and personal protective equipment is used in line with industry good practice
16	Carried out work to minimise environmental damage (Topic 2.7)	Any possible environmental damage is minimised at all times.

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
Carry out aerial rescue		
17	Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice (Topic 2.8)	All activities must be completed in a way which protects the operator and those around them, consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice.

Appendix 1

Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to www.cityandguilds.com or click on the links below:

Centre handbook: quality assurance standards

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.

Centre assessment: quality assurance standards

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

This 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** 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

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We work with Governments, employers, training providers, colleges and industry stakeholders to design and deliver high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to meaningful career progression. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility and success. Our solutions span critical sectors including construction, engineering, transport, energy and electrical, serving over 1 million learners annually.

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