

Q-6. Cutting grass using an electric lawn mower, moving no outdoor furniture [uncalibrated]

Essential task

The person is expected to (a) use an electric lawn mower to cut the grass of a pre-designated area until all of the grass has been cut, and (b) rake the mowed area free of grass clippings.

Specific criteria

1. The person is expected to use an electric lawn mower. Using a gas powered, manual, or cordless lawn mower is **not** acceptable.
2. The lawn mower must have a detachable grass catcher bag.
3. The person is **not** expected to move any outdoor furniture, but is expected to maneuver the lawn mower around existing furniture to cut the grass.
4. The lawn mower and any other needed garden tools (e.g., rake, broom, plastic bags) must be stored in a garden shed, garage or other similar enclosure.
5. The person is expected to cut an area of grass 33 m² to 55 m² (300 ft² to 500 ft²) in size. The size of an appropriate area of grass to cut ranges from approximately 5 m x 7 m (15 ft x 20 ft) to 7 m x 8 m (20 ft x 25 ft).
6. The person is **not** expected to use shears or a grass trimmer to trim the edges of the lawn, or to use a broom and/or dustpan to collect the grass clippings that might fall on any walkways or patio surfaces.

Options

1. The person may use an extension cord to plug the lawn mower into an electrical outlet, if desired.
2. The grass clippings collected in the grass catcher bag may be placed loose into a garbage container or on a compost pile.

Restoration

The person is to return the lawn mower, grass catcher bag, and extension cord, if used, to their original storage places and place the grass clippings into a garbage container or on compost pile.

Prior to beginning the person should

Be completely familiarized with the set up of the environment, including the location of all needed tools and materials and the operation of any electrical appliances. A variety of alternative choices should be included among the tools and materials stored.

Prior to beginning the occupational therapist should

1. Ascertain the boundaries of the area of grass to be cut and where the person intends to discard the grass clippings.
2. Ascertain whether the person intends to use an extension cord to plug in the lawn mower. **Note.** This information is gathered so that the occupational therapist can be sure that all needed tools and materials are available to the person.
3. Ensure that the grass collection bag has been emptied and reattached to the lawn mower either by the person or by the occupational therapist.

Special rules

1. Do **not** score the person on whether or not he or she cuts the grass in back and forth, alternating parallel lines.
2. If the person intends to move outdoor furniture when cutting the grass, Task Q-7 may be an appropriate option.

Required tools and materials

- Electric lawn mower with detachable grass catcher bag
- Outside area of grass (33m² to 55 m², or 300 ft² to 500 ft²)
- Electrical outlet
- Storage shed or garage
- Compost pile or garbage container
- Optional: extension cord

