

6003-024/524 – Level 2

Nail Treatments – Theory Exam

March 2020

Examiner Report

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Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner, it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres to use in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document be referred to when preparing to teach and then again when candidates are preparing to sit examinations for City & Guilds Technical qualifications.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance and highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat the **March 2020** examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, incorrect examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment;
6003-024/524 - Level 2 Nail Treatments – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

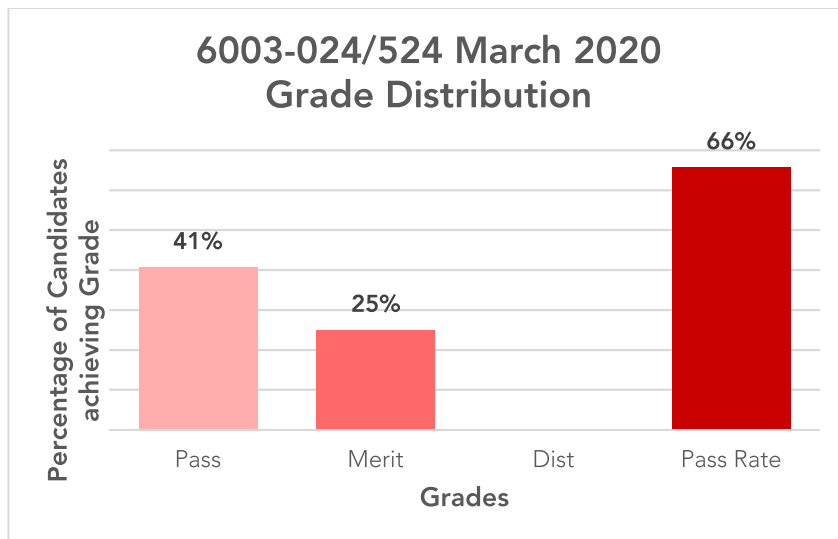
Assessment: **6003-024/524**

Series: **March 2020**

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel:

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	27
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	42

The graph below shows the approximate distribution of grades and pass rates for this assessment:



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 6003-024/524

Series 1 (March)

Overall candidates' performance on the theory exam was comparable to last year's. Candidates that were successful in this examination were able to demonstrate that they could use industry specific terminology and had enough knowledge and understanding to be able to adapt services, work safely and independently when carrying out nail treatments.

Most candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge; gaining the majority of marks available on topics related to retail items following a manicure service, business start-up costs, massage movements and contra-actions following a manicure treatment.

Many candidates showed a good understanding of effective ventilation when providing nail services, however some candidates lost marks due to only providing identifying points in their responses and not providing follow on linked explanations. Many candidates also demonstrated a good understanding of the selection of correct brush sizes; explaining the reasons for use, which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

Candidates need to focus on reading questions as responses in some areas did not relate to what was being asked. One example of this was a question asking about the removal of hard gel; many responses referenced the removal of gel polish and the soak off methods which is not relevant to hard gel systems. This was also evident with the question on the arteries of the hand and arm; with some candidates responding with types of blood vessels and remedial actions where answers included processes rather than the reasons.

Many candidates demonstrated weaknesses in both the knowledge and understanding questions that related to anatomy and physiology; some candidates omitted to attempt to answer these questions that related to the different body systems e.g. the circulatory system. Those candidates that were gaining higher marks across the paper were still only gaining a few marks in the anatomy and physiology questions.

Many candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding of nail chemistry and UV wavelengths. Some responses incorrectly provided comparisons between UV lamp types.

There was an improvement in the extended response question responses compared to previous years. Most candidates provided treatment plans with some justifications which linked to the client's needs and achieved middle band marks.

Marks were lost where candidates created very basic treatment plans that were mainly natural nail related and were not linked to the client's needs. Treatments options discussed showed some inconsistencies and there were some responses that did not always relate back to the scenario provided. Many candidates did not provide after care recommendations or consider budgets and timescales within their responses and were therefore unable to access higher marks.

Candidates who achieved higher marks demonstrated evidence of reasoning and critical thinking, rather than basic manicure treatments. The better responses considered a range of treatment options and provided accurate justification for the choices and recommendations made.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates also need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper and need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs,

as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/beauty-and-complementary-therapies/beauty/6003-beauty-therapy-nails-and-spa#tab=documents>