

# 6003-020/520 – Level 2 Beauty Therapy

March 2018

## 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 2018 examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment;  
6003-020/520 Level 2 Beauty Therapy – Theory exam.

# Theory Exam – March 2018

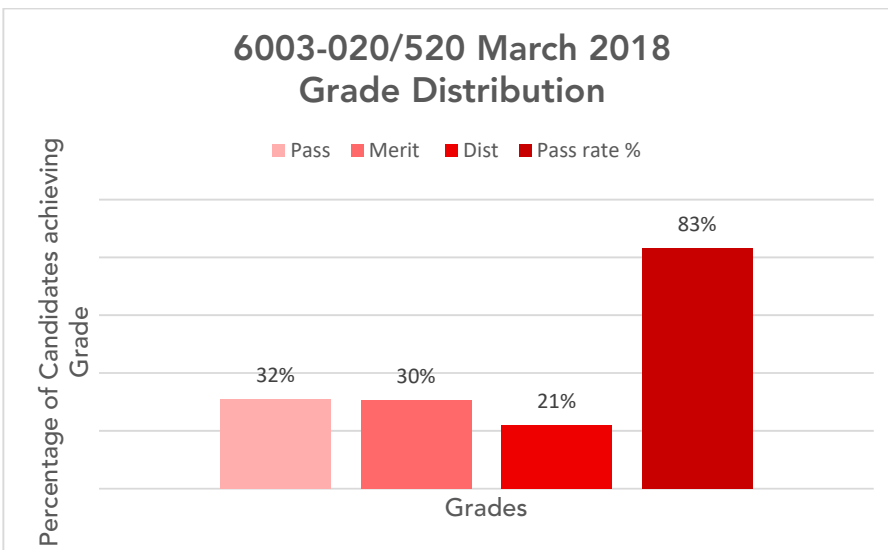
## Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: 6003-020/520  
Series: March 2018

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	40

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



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 6003-020/520

### Series 1 March 2018

This was the first cohort to sit the 6003-020/520 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Beauty Therapy - Theory exam. It should be noted that future exams will sample different topics and learning outcomes from the qualification, so this commentary relates to the March 2018 examination only.

Overall the paper provided sufficient stretch and challenge at this level and sampled across the entire qualification. Candidates that were successful in this examination demonstrated that they could apply industry specific terminology correctly, solve non-routine problems and show sufficient knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently when carrying out treatments.

Candidates often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner; their responses often lacked depth and breadth. They sometimes missed opportunities to gain additional marks as they provided limited responses which inadequately demonstrated understanding when the question required them to explain.

Overall, there was a poor understanding demonstrated of anatomy and physiology – critical areas of knowledge in this qualification. Candidates struggled with the structures that form the layers of the hair shaft. Many candidates misread the question and instead referenced the structure of the skin or the hair growth cycle. The majority of candidates also struggled with anatomy and physiology questions that required a deeper level of understanding. This was reflected in their responses for the functions of the blood - candidates could only provide one or two basic identification points, missing the opportunity to gain higher marks by providing follow-on explanations.

Responses were limited where candidates were asked to explain the reasons for avoiding exposure to UV light following a facial treatment. Many candidates responded with identification points on natural UV exposure and UV sun bed exposure rather than fully explaining the reasons and therefore missed the opportunity to access the full range of marks available. Some responses stated the long term effects of exposure to UV light such as cancer, pigmentation and ageing which indicated they may not have read and fully understood the question posed.

Many candidates' responses showed some confusion of the characteristics of a congested skin condition by instead providing the characteristics of an oily skin condition.

The majority of candidates demonstrated a good knowledge of the contra-indications that would prevent a manicure treatment, however some candidates lost marks due to stating the contra-indications for the feet and other focussed on what would 'restrict' rather than 'prevent' a treatment. This highlighted that candidates need to read questions carefully before answering.

Overall, candidates demonstrated a good knowledge of the principles of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), patch testing products prior to a lash lifting treatment and the reasons for using open questions during client consultation, which resulted in higher marks being achieved.

### Extended response question

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge from across the qualification. A range of marks were achieved on the extended response question however, some candidates missed the opportunity to gain marks in the top band.

Marks were lost where candidates provided a basic treatment plan with step by step narrative description of treatment routines rather than providing a clear plan for treatment appointments. The treatment plans proposed were too often not in a clear logical sequence, for example suggesting waxing before a tint, full facial waxing after a facial, and a make-up trial after a facial. There was limited or no references to the clients purpose for having treatments or budget considerations.

The majority of candidates provided justified treatment plans, with options, treatment timings and links to the client's needs which resulted in middle band marks. Some responses referred to relevant aftercare advice and recommendations, although most missed considering this within their answer.

It is recommended that candidates consider all aspects of the service, taking into account the client's needs with justifications for any recommendations made.

Overall, candidates did not score high marks in the extended response question. The ability to compare, justify, discuss and evaluate a proposed, well-considered plan will give candidates the best opportunity to access the higher mark bands in questions which typically hold the highest number of marks throughout the theory question paper.

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://cdn.cityandguilds.com/ProductDocuments/Beauty\\_and\\_Complementary\\_Therapies/Beauty/6003/6003\\_Level%202/Assessment\\_Materials/6003-20\\_Technicals\\_exam\\_document\\_2018\\_v1-0.pdf](https://cdn.cityandguilds.com/ProductDocuments/Beauty_and_Complementary_Therapies/Beauty/6003/6003_Level%202/Assessment_Materials/6003-20_Technicals_exam_document_2018_v1-0.pdf)