

# **6003-520 Level 2 Beauty Therapy – Theory Exam (450)**

**2023**

**Qualification Report**

# Contents

Introduction.....	3
Qualification Grade Distribution.....	4
Theory Exam.....	5
<b>Theory Exam – March 2023</b> .....	5
<b>Grade Boundaries and distribution</b> .....	5
Synoptic Assignment.....	11
Grade Boundaries.....	11

# Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator; it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document is referred to when planning delivery and when preparing candidates for City & Guilds Technical assessments.

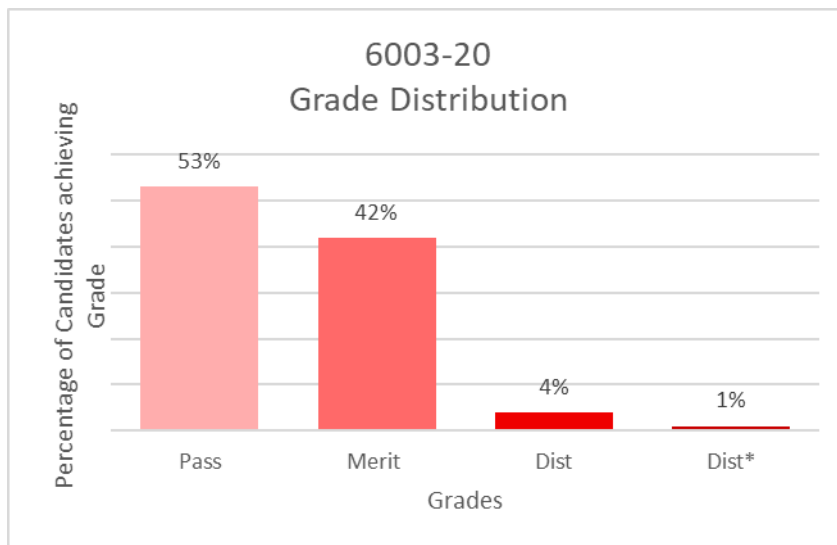
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2022 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 6003-520 – Level 2 Beauty Theory – Theory exam
  - March 2023 (Spring)
  - June 2023 (Summer)
- 6003-021 – Level 2 Beauty Therapy – Synoptic Assignment

# Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



111

Please note City & Guilds will only report qualification grades for candidates who have achieved all of the required assessment components, including Employer Involvement, optional units and any other centre assessed components as indicated within the Qualification Handbook. The grade distribution shown above could include performance from previous years.

# Theory Exam

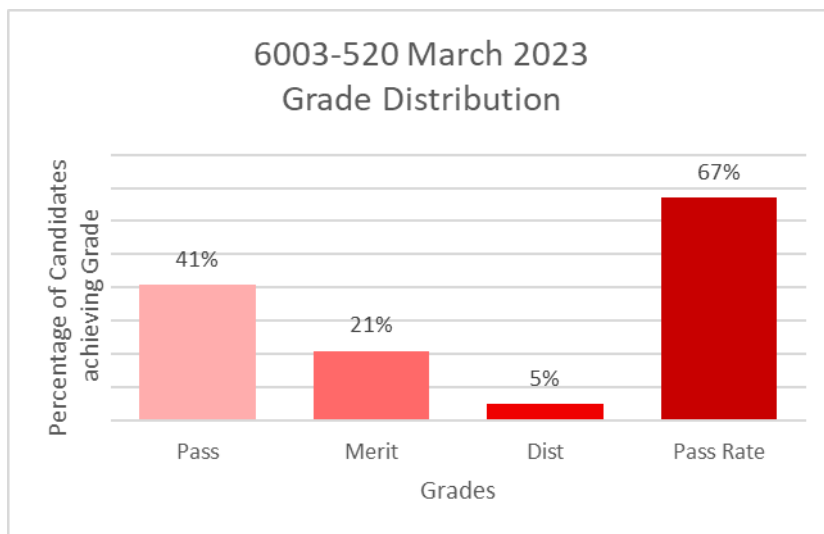
## Theory Exam – March 2023 Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **6003-020/520**  
Series: **March 2023 (Spring)**

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	41

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment, it does not account for any marks that have been amended:

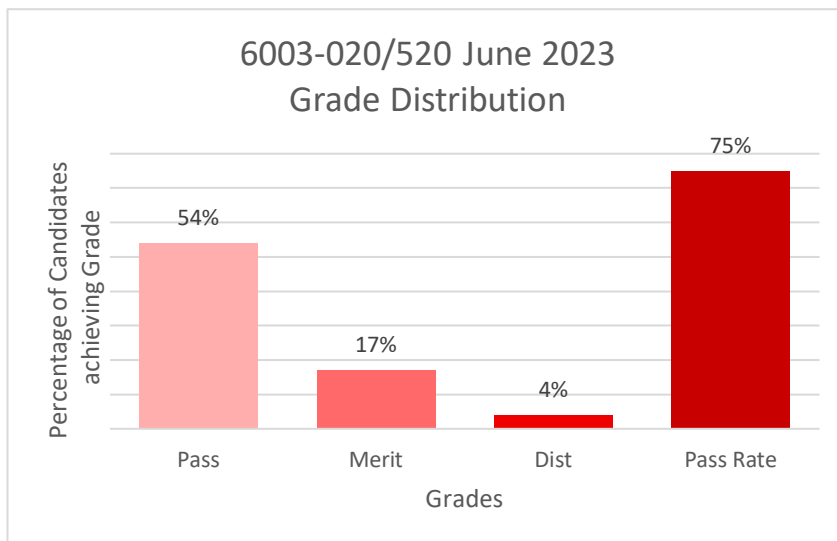


Assessment: **6003-020/520**  
Series: **June 2023 (Summer)**

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	41

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 6003-020/520 Level 2 Beauty Therapy - Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2023

The March 2023 paper was comparable to previous past series. Overall, the style, content and format were of the same standard and the level of difficulty maintained. The paper covered a range of content across vocational and Anatomy & Physiology knowledge and understanding questions. The paper provided sufficient stretch and challenge at this level and sampled across the qualification. On the whole candidates' performance was consistent with that seen in previous series.

Candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding across Anatomy & Physiology which continues to reflect patterns seen in previous papers. Candidates often struggled to explain in detail their understanding. They were able to note identification points but lacked structure and detail within explanations. More successful candidates were able to provide linked responses, use a wider range of vocational terminology and identify adaptations linked to specific treatments or client's needs. The extended response showed performance in line with previous series. Candidates performed well on short response questions such as 'state', 'list' and 'describe' and generally showed good knowledge when relating to a range of vocational topics.

Most candidates demonstrated confident knowledge in the topic area of types of contra-indications linked to different infections that prevent or restrict eye treatments. Many candidates also performed well on questions linked to practical elements, such as in topics related to identifying contra-actions to treatments. The majority of candidates were able to achieve the higher end or maximum marks available. A vast number of candidates were able to define and identify safe working practices in order to prevent injuries.

Most candidates also demonstrated sound knowledge and understating of different types of pigmentation with higher performing candidates able to know the causes and use accurate examples. Higher achieving candidates provided responses that demonstrated knowledge of services that would improve cuticle condition for a manicure service. Candidates demonstrated weakness in their knowledge and understanding of Anatomy and Physiology. Candidates showed a lack of knowledge of the structures of the lymphatic system, instead candidates incorrectly answered with the functions of the system.

To support candidates, centres should encourage candidates to carefully read the question and answer the aim of the question. A large number of candidates struggled with questions that related to the location of bones. In some instances, candidates omitted to respond or stated incorrect answers. Most candidates showed a lack of knowledge in the topic area related to structure, functions and growth cycle of the nail.

The majority of candidates lacked knowledge and understanding in relation to structures of the cardiovascular system. In most instances the poor performing candidates did not provide an answer. In some cases, candidates showed basic understanding but confused which vessel carried oxygenated and deoxygenated blood. Many candidates struggled on the topic of providing advice and recommendations for eye treatments to clients. Candidates responded with benefits to the salon rather than to the client. Higher performing candidates were able to discuss how further treatments could enhance the look, increase longevity, and maximise client's appointment time.

### **Extended response question**

The extended response question overall was answered well and showed similar performance levels from that seen in the previous year. Lower scoring candidates were able to provide a basic range of treatments with some justifications, however, may not fully link treatments to the client's

needs and, in some instances, provide generic information. In most instances candidates did not fully utilise the length of the session available, offering a minimum range of services. Those gaining higher marks were able to provide a wider range of treatments and discuss additional elements such as the consideration of the client's skin condition and identifying appropriate product choices. Treatments were in a suitable order and were appropriate, safety was considered to include patch testing and links to steaming treatments.

Candidates gaining marks in the highest band were able to make accurate reference to, and the treatment of breakouts including possible causes, extraction and prevention. They provided a range of bespoke aftercare and homecare which included a range of retail and return treatment and services. Candidates would benefit from practicing examination techniques when preparing for this examination.

Candidates need to be prepared for a range of exam questions and to understand the key command verbs and their expectations. They need to read each question carefully so as not to disadvantage themselves and to ensure the depth of response required is provided. Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here: [Beauty Therapy - Nails and Spa qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/Qualifications/Beauty-Therapy-and-Spa-qualifications-and-training-courses)



## **Series 2 (June 2023)**

The June 2023 paper was comparable to previous past series. Overall, the style, content and format were of the same standard and the level of difficulty maintained. The paper covered a range of content across vocational and Anatomy & Physiology (A&P) knowledge and understanding questions. The paper provided sufficient stretch and challenge at this level and sampled across the entire qualification. On the whole candidate's performance was consistent with that seen in previous series. Candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding across A&P which continues to reflect patterns seen in previous papers.

Candidates often struggled to explain in detail, their understanding. They were able to note identification points but lacked structure and detail within explanations. More successful candidates were able to provide linked responses, use a wider range of vocational terminology and identify adaptations linked to specific treatments or client's needs. The extended response showed performance in line with previous series.

Short response questions such as state, list and describe generally showed good knowledge when relating to a range of vocational topics. Most candidates were confident in their understanding of disorders and diseases of the skin. The vast majority of candidates performed well in questions linked to practical elements, for example when asked to explain the contra actions following a facial treatment and when stating the specialised hand treatments that would improve the cuticles. Candidate's demonstrated good knowledge and confidence when outlining safe working practices. Most candidates demonstrated good knowledge and understating when describing the features of a range of skin conditions.

In most instances, candidates demonstrated a lack of knowledge and understanding in questions relating to anatomy and physiology; it was noted that the vast majority of candidates lacked knowledge of the location of the lymph nodes within the head, and in most instances, candidates did not attempt the question or provided inaccurate details. A large number of candidates struggled with question that related to the bones of the head. In some instances, candidates referenced the muscles or responses provided were inaccurate.

It was noted that a majority of candidates lacked knowledge and understanding in relation to the range of movements within a specific joint. In most instances the weaker candidates did not respond. In some cases, candidates showed basic understanding but lacked clarity. Higher performing candidates were able to provide a wider range of movements and a description of each movement.

In some instances, candidates did not fully read the question. When reviewing consultation processes for eye treatments, some candidates described the process of tactile testing as opposed to patch testing.

### **Extended response question**

The extended response question overall was answered well and showed similar performance levels from that seen in the previous year. Lower scoring candidates were able to provide a basic range of treatments with some justifications however may not fully link treatments to client's needs and in some instances, provided generic information. In some instances, candidates did not effectively plan across the sessions available, offering a minimum range of services.

Those gaining higher marks were able to provide a wider range of treatments and discuss additional elements such as the consideration of client's skin and nail condition and identifying appropriate product choices. Treatments were planned in a suitable order and were appropriate, safety was considered to include patch testing. Candidates gaining marks in the highest band were able to make accurate reference to the client's skin type and provide additional services within the facial such as steaming and mask application. They provide a range of bespoke aftercare and homecare which included a range of retail and return treatment and services.

Candidates would benefit from practicing examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates need to be prepared for a range of exam questions and to understand the key command verbs and their expectations. They need to read each question carefully so as not to disadvantage themselves and to ensure the depth of response required is provided.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here.  
[Beauty Therapy - Nails and Spa qualifications and training courses | City & Guilds](https://www.cityandguilds.com/uk/qualifications/beauty-therapy)  
 [\(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

## Synoptic Assignment

### Grade Boundaries

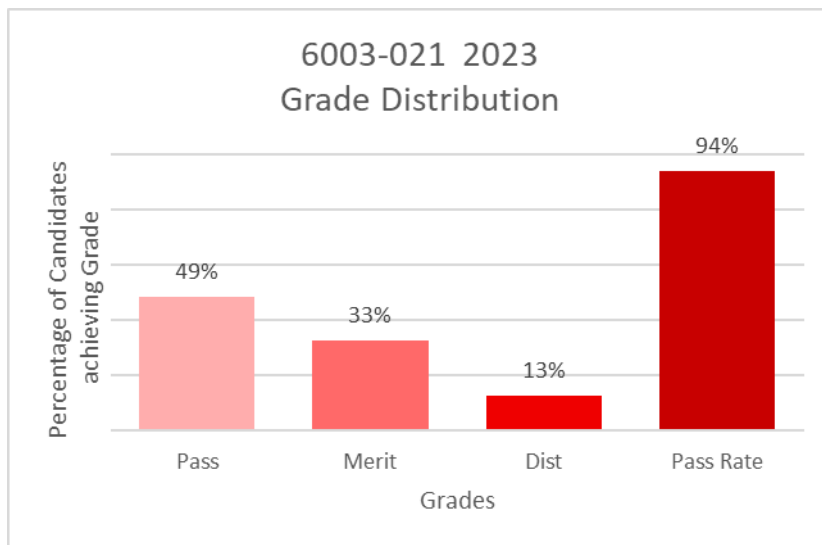
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Assessment: **6003-021**

Series: **2023 (Summer)**

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

The graph below shows the approximate distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment using the above boundary marks:



**Assessment component: 6003-021**  
**Series: June 2023**  
**Principal Moderator Commentary 2023**

The assignment brief stated the two practical tasks that the candidate would carry out and this was followed with an evaluation. The two tasks are a true reflection of real working practices as the candidates have to complete one task on a client that was unknown to them and one task on a client that they can source.

Centres used the practical observation forms and the majority of markers recorded oral questions asked and responses from the candidate. Some markers either added an additional table on the PO form or created an additional table to clearly log the start and finish time for each treatment as recommended treatment times were stated in the synoptic brief. Majority of markers made a comment regarding oral questions asked and these were a range of knowledge questions (AO1) and understanding questions (AO2).

**Breakdown of performance against each AO - Strengths and weaknesses**

**AO1 - Recall of knowledge**

The lower scoring candidates demonstrated some knowledge of health & safety and hygiene practices when preparing the workstations and carrying out client consultation. The higher scoring candidates adhered to correct Health & Safety procedures, demonstrated comprehensive knowledge of contra-indications and contra-actions when carrying out each client consultation.

**AO2 - Understanding of concepts theories and processes**

The lower scoring candidates showed limited understanding of linking the consultation to products chosen. The high scoring candidates had thorough understanding of the consultation process and used this information to select product choice and order of work. For many candidates, aftercare and recommendations were limited and generic, the higher scoring candidates gave detailed aftercare and recommendations with clear justifications.

**AO3 - Application of practical/technical skills**

Overall, a strong performance was demonstrated in this AO with the majority of candidates achieving marks within band 2 and 3. Most candidates followed professional standards, carried out adequate consultation, preparation of work area and selected appropriate products. The higher scoring candidates demonstrated confidence in applying their treatments with confidence and when conversing with the clients and excellent dexterity skills. The lower scoring candidates demonstrated little engagement with their client and limited to adequate dexterity skills and this was apparent with waxing and eye treatments.

**AO4 - Bringing it all together coherence of the whole subject**

The high scoring candidates demonstrated the ability to problem solve and when required were able to adapt treatments accordingly. These candidates demonstrated good time management across all areas and treatments flowed timelessly from one to another. The low scoring candidates had poor time management particularly in waxing and the light cured gel polish treatment and they did not demonstrate confidence in problem solving eg when the wax was too cold/hot, order of carrying out treatments making the client turn back and forth many times or the work area set up did not allow trolleys to be moved around the couch.

**AO5 - Attending to detail/ perfecting**

The high scoring candidates were well prepared, highly focused on the client throughout each treatment and recorded all their findings. They completed a detailed evaluation discussing areas that went well and areas that could be improved upon. The low scoring candidates showed little interaction with the client and completed a brief evaluation with very little detail.

### **Examples of best practice**

Photographic evidence was required for make-up, manicure and pedicure and most provided shots that were of excellent quality that were clear annotated some photos had a lot of shadow which made it difficult to clearly see the finished results. Many created a PowerPoint with all the photo evidence which worked extremely well.

Centres are required to ensure the suitability of sourced clients as in some instances candidates seemed to have selected clients for the manicure gel polish with very short and bitten nails which prevented them from showcasing their skills. Candidates also selected clients that had very little hair growth particularly on the legs and most clients had an underarm wax very few candidates completed a bikini wax. Many centres allocated the candidates two work areas eg a couch and nail station and this gave enough space for candidates to work professionally. Equipment and products were laid out at the end of the salon and candidates were given time prior to the synoptic to set up their couches and trolleys.

Best practice was observed where the markers used the practical observation feedback sheets and made detailed and justified commentary based on what they saw during each stage of the assessment and made clear reference to the AO's and the band descriptors. The information contained on the practical observation feedback sheet was used along with the treatment plans, candidate evaluation and client feedback to complete very detailed centre record forms.