



# **6003-22 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Nail Treatments**

**2023**

**Qualification Report**

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# 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.

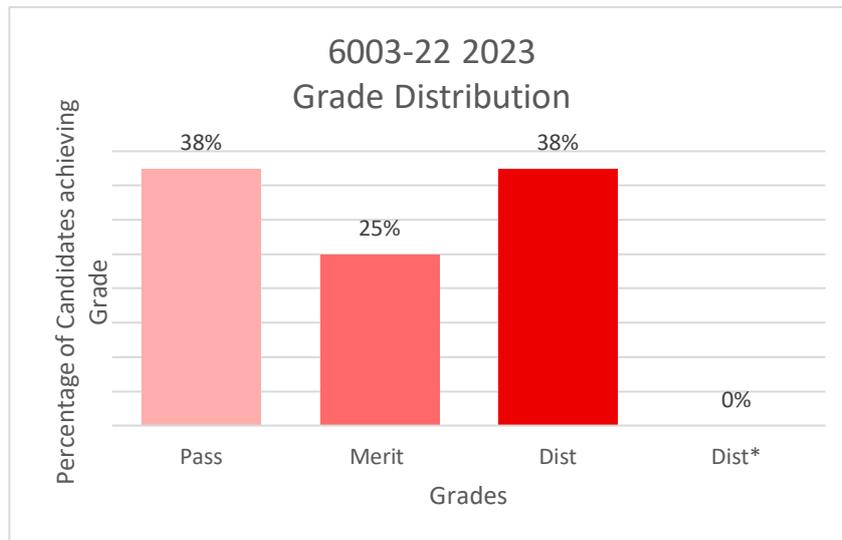
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments 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:

- 6003-024/524 Level 2 Nail Treatments – Theory exam
  - March 2023 (Spring)
  - June 2023 (Summer)
- 6003-025 Level 2 Nail Treatments – Synoptic Assignment

# Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



This data is based on the distribution as of 22/08/2023.

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

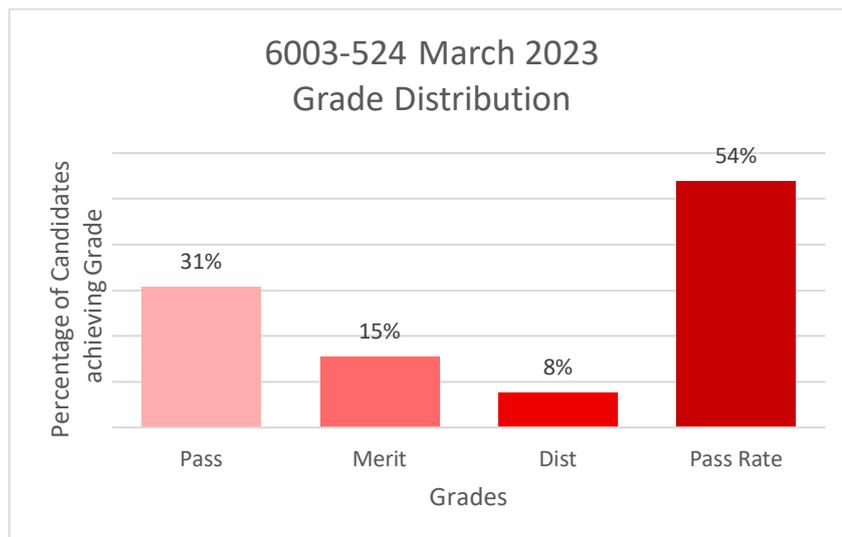
## Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 6003-024/524  
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	26
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	42

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

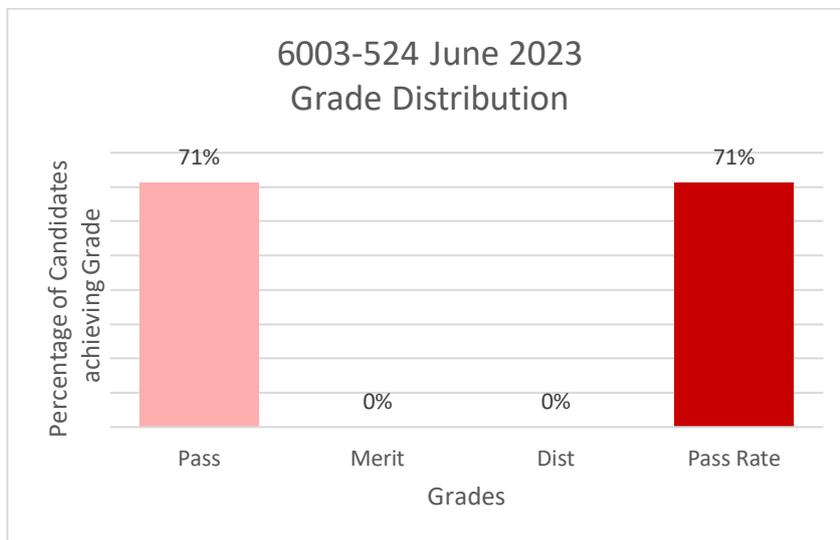


Assessment: 6003-024/524  
Series: June 2023 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	42

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



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 6003-024/524 Level 2 Nail Treatments - Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2023

The examination paper covered a good range of learning outcomes over the whole qualification and was similar to previous series in terms of range, suitability and level. As seen in previous series, anatomy and physiology continues to be a challenge for most candidates.

Higher achieving candidates in this examination demonstrated that they have relevant anatomy and physiology knowledge and understanding. Overall candidates were able to recall knowledge however often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner; their responses often recalled identification points but lacked the explanation.

Short response questions such as 'state', 'list' and 'name' were answered better throughout the paper. Most candidates demonstrated a good recall of knowledge and understanding, gaining marks in topics such as career opportunities linked to a mobile business, homecare recommendation for the hands and nails, contractions linked to breakages in nail enhancements, different nail types when applying enhancements, and adapting treatments for weak nails and UV Hard gel services, which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

The majority of candidates struggled with anatomy and physiology questions. Many candidates did not attempt these questions and some responses achieved little or no marks. Areas where the candidates did not do well include the location of muscles and naming the bones. Some of the responses to the technical skills questions on adapting services were often inaccurate and misunderstood. For example, on the topic of a specific condition of the skin and cuticle, most responses referred to treating the condition by trimming which is not suitable and can cause pain to the client.

Many candidates also struggled with their responses on the topic related to contamination when applying nail enhancements. Some candidates omitted to answer questions that related to adaptations and anatomy and physiology. Some answers indicated that candidates had not read and understood the focus of some questions fully, whilst other responses lacked justification and/or reason, meaning they were unable to gain full marks.

### **Extended response question**

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge and understanding from across the qualification to discuss suitable treatments and service options to meet the client's needs. Candidates were asked to present client treatment options, justifying the preferred treatment plan, including ways to enhance the nails and skin. Most candidates provided justified treatment plans which linked to the client's needs and achieved middle band marks.

Marks were lost where candidates provided very basic service options treatment plans that were not linked to the client's needs as outlined in the case study and omitted areas such as timescales and budgets, nail art, aftercare and maintenance advice. Candidates who achieved higher marks demonstrated more depth and breadth to the reasoning and choices, rather than simply recommendations.

In order to achieve higher marks candidates are encouraged to consider all aspects of the treatment plan, taking into account the client's needs with justifications for their recommendations. They will need the ability to compare, justify, discuss and evaluate a proposed, well-considered plan.

Centres are encouraged to help students develop knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology, products and chemistry of the industry, technical terminology, and application techniques.

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. They need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs, as well as the need to read each question carefully in order to respond clearly to the question given.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available at <https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/beauty-and-complementary-therapies/beauty/6003-beauty-therapy-nails-and-spa#tab=documents>

## **Series 2 – June 2023**

Overall, the paper covered a variety of topics from the mandatory units within the qualification providing a mix between knowledge and understanding type questions. Candidates that were successful in this examination demonstrated that they have both vocational and relevant anatomy and physiology knowledge and understanding.

Higher scoring candidates demonstrated the ability to recall knowledge across all of the mandatory units and evidence their understanding, through linking some responses and reasoning. The combination of these skills, supported by the accurate use of industry specific terminology, enabled them to solve routine problems presented in scenarios which covered the breadth of the syllabus.

The vocational knowledge questions as usual were generally well answered. These included, in particular, topics relating to products considered hazardous, the structure of a nail enhancement, conditions which prevent a pedicure service, effects of massage on the circulation system and factors to consider when selecting an application brush which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

Candidates generally achieved some marks on understanding questions but were unable to achieve full marks as they did not demonstrate the breadth of knowledge of the topic area or offered incomplete answers; in particular topics relating to the differences between furrows and beau lines, as well as conditions which restrict massage.

Some candidates missed the opportunity to gain marks where they were unable to demonstrate recall of knowledge for some of the anatomy and physiology questions on topics relating to the blood supply and effects of massage on the circulation system. Responses relating to the health and safety were often inaccurate. For example, when asked about the importance of manual handling in the salon, some responses referred to the wrong regulation such as COSHH.

All candidates struggled with their responses related to the topic area covering the correct use of activators when applying a wrap system, with most omitting to respond. Some answers indicated that candidates had not read and understood the focus of some questions fully, whilst other responses lacked justification and/or reason, meaning they were unable to gain full marks.

### **Extended response question**

The extended response question was similar to previous series using a different case study scenario enabling candidates to bring together their knowledge and understanding and create a suitable treatment plan. Candidates were asked to present client treatment options, justifying the preferred treatment plan, including ways to enhance the nails and skin.

Most candidates provided justified treatment plans which linked to the client's needs and achieved middle band marks. Marks were lost where candidates provided very basic service options treatment plans that were not linked to the client's needs as outlined in the case study and omitted areas such as timescales and budgets, nail art, aftercare, and maintenance advice.

Candidates that achieved higher marks demonstrated evidence of reasoning and critical thinking rather than simply a narrative list treatment carried out. The better responses considered a range of treatment options and provided accurate justification for the choices and recommendations made.

Centres are encouraged to help students develop knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology, products and chemistry of the industry and terminology and application techniques.

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. They need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs, as well as the need to read each question carefully in order to respond clearly to the question given.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available at <https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/beauty-and-complementary-therapies/beauty/6003-beauty-therapy-nails-and-spa#tab=documents>

# Synoptic Assignment

## Grade Boundaries

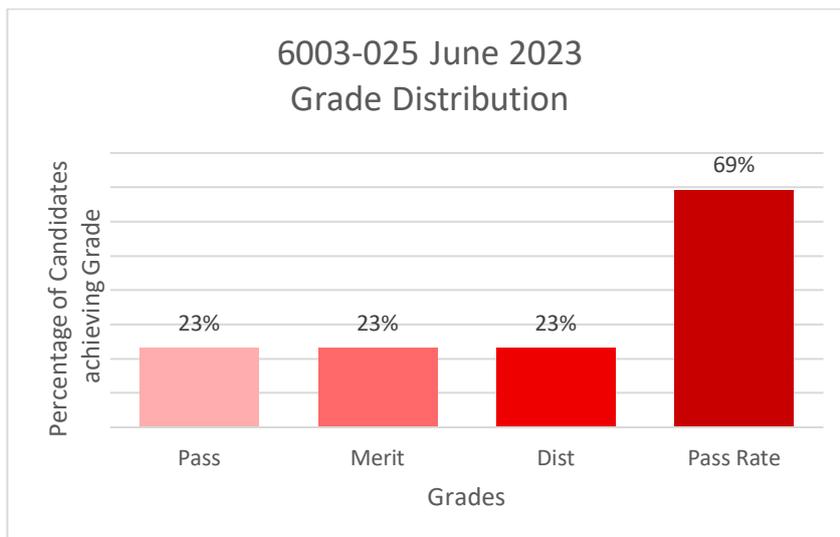
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Assessment: 6003-025

Series: 2023

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	36
Distinction mark	46

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



## **Principal Moderator Commentary**

The assignment brief and tasks provided were sufficient to explain the areas in which the candidate should research and the areas on which they should report, comment, and perform various practical tasks. The outcomes of the set tasks varied from excellent to poor and the marks awarded by the centres, and then sometimes altered by the moderators, reflected this.

Higher scoring candidates showed consistency throughout the synoptic assessment, and this was reflected in marks allocated across the assessment objectives. Higher scoring candidates tended to work fluently, meeting the needs of the clients, and planning the nail services in the most appropriate order. Lower scoring candidates tended to show hesitation and the nail services carried out were not always the most appropriate to meet the needs of the client. Candidates were better at AO1 recalling information rather than providing the AO2 Understanding.

Inconsistencies were generally present across the set of nails with inconsistencies in product control, blending techniques and the overall nail structure. In most cases the Gel Polish application was applied well, however a common theme was that nail art was safe and lacked in creativity.

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

#### **AO1- Recall of knowledge**

Many candidates achieved marks in band 3 demonstrating a good knowledge of Health and Safety, legislation and hygiene practices which was evidenced through the tutor feedback on Performance Observation Forms. Centres included verbal questioning and recorded the answers to draw out additional depth of candidate's knowledge. Higher achieving candidates referenced health and safety, hygiene and working practices in their treatment plans and the evaluation task.

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

Most candidates demonstrated some depth of understanding within task 2. Higher scoring candidates understood the consultation process used to determine a treatment plan and provided sound reasons for the selection, use of products, techniques, and adaptations. The inclusion of the use of technical terminology and chemical processes was seen at higher scoring candidates.

Within task 2, candidates demonstrated some understanding when linking the treatment plan of individual clients to their applications. Low scoring candidates showed limited use of correct terminology missing opportunities to refer to anatomy and physiology, skin and nail conditions and chemical processes. Many lower scoring candidates also demonstrated a lack of understanding to make adaptations.

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

Most candidates demonstrated that this was their strongest area and many achieved marks in band 2, by carrying out good quality nail services with confidence. Candidates demonstrated a good level of communication and professional standards throughout which was outlined in the tutor notes. Attention was given to personal presentation and client comfort. Their skill level showed some precision and demonstrated a range of techniques at varying levels.

Lower scoring candidates displayed a basic level of practical ability by showing a lack of creativity and originality, adequate dexterity and fluidity of techniques and missing the opportunity to record details accurately on the client treatment plans. The overall enhancement structures required more finishing.

Higher scoring candidates showed an understanding of balance between the length of the enhancement and the application of French polish with consistency of smile lines, selecting the appropriate colour to maintain a balanced look. Nail art was simple but executed well.

Adequate aftercare advice and recommendation were provided by the majority of candidates with higher scoring candidates gained additional marks by evidencing clear attempt to promote products and services with detailed aftercare advice.

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

Most candidates gained mid-range marks in band 2 showing good understanding of the task requirements. Candidates showed some amalgamation of research for the creative Look Book activity including adequate referencing of work and images of their own work. Lower performing candidates the content was limited.

Although some candidates could analyse, reflect, and evaluate with some success, this wasn't always evident as the lower scoring candidates did not provide justifications of choices made and minimal consideration was given to factors likely to affect the nails service such as nail types and shapes, products and application techniques. Whereas the high scoring candidates' provided justifications for choices and demonstrated how to deal with problems and rectify mistakes.

Effective time management was noted by tutors for some lower scoring where some tasks were not completed in time.

#### **AO5- Attending to detail/ perfecting**

Performance on attention to detail within task 2 was mixed. Candidates who gained high marks within AO3 and AO4 also gained similar marks within this area. Candidates generally met clients' needs and attempts were made to correct mistakes.

The lower scoring candidates showed less precision and attention to detail required which resulted in a poor performance. Nails lacked in consistency of shape and uneven, resulting in uneven polish application. Product was in contact with the skin and the artwork were basic and untidy.

The higher scoring candidates demonstrated better attention to detail in their product control and the finishing. Although the apex placement was inconsistent, more consideration was given to key areas such balance and shape of nails. The application was neater around the cuticle and sidewalls and the French smile lines were crisp.

#### **Examples of best practice**

Tutors made justifications and comments which were appropriate, applicable to the marking bands and marks were aligned with the quality of work presented. This included both the written notes taken from the assessment process of each task and a typed version encompassing all information across the ranges.

Effective time management was noted by tutors for most candidates, however for some candidate's tasks were not completed in the time allocated.

The asking of additional questions which were fully evidenced by some centres gave candidates an opportunity to gain additional marks in the knowledge and understanding AO's. Although this was not seen across all centres.

#### **Feedback on uploading images**

Images in most cases met the assignment requirements including the images taken throughout the service, clarity/distance, variety of angles of the finished nails for task 2, and the colour of images.

Centres overall uploaded candidate's images, Look Book and Price List into single documents i.e Word document or PDF, centres are encouraged to follow this practice. Some images were too small with more than one applied to a page making evidence not as easy to decipher. All files need to be compressed into a relevant and coherent order, instead of one file or document for each piece of evidence and images should be clearly identifiable.