

# **6003-034/534 – Level 3**

## **Nail Technology – 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;  
**6003-034/534 – Level 3 Nail Technology –Theory Exam.**

# Theory Exam – March 2020

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

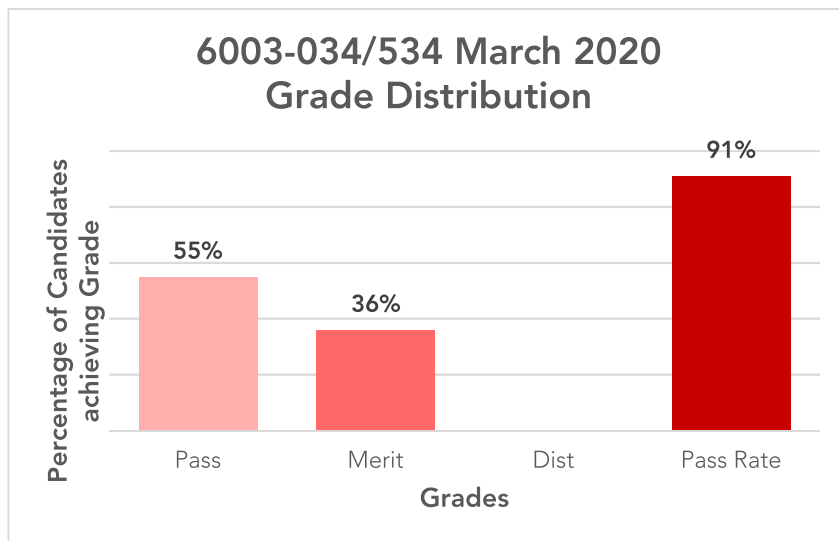
Assessment: **6003-034/534**

Series: **March 2020**

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:



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## General Comments on Candidate Performance

**Assessment component: 6003-034/534**

### Series 1 (March)

Candidates that were successful in this examination showed that they had sufficient knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently in a nail salon. There was a comprehensive range of total marks achieved for this question paper, which shows that the paper differentiated across candidates. The candidates performed better this year in answering questions and put more information into answering however missed opportunities in linking answers to gain the higher marks.

Like the previous year, the short state, describe questions were answered better than the questions that required a detailed explanation and justification however in some areas candidates tried to justify answers when they were required to state.

Many candidates demonstrated good knowledge and were able to achieve the majority of marks on topics related to removal of enhancements, grits of files, sealing designs and factors to consider for nail art.

Candidates often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner; their responses often lacked depth and breadth and repeated themselves. Overall, there was a lack of knowledge and understanding demonstrated of anatomy and physiology. Many candidates struggled to identify the bones found in the ankle; some responded incorrectly by stating bones elsewhere in the body.

Candidates are reminded to read the question fully before answering to ensure their answers relate to the question. Candidates showed limited understanding of how to avoid repetitive strain injury with many responding with only identification points therefore, missing the opportunity to access the full range of marks available. Some candidates also lost marks because their answers were general and did not link to their identification. Many candidate responses showed a lack of knowledge of diverse needs of clients as candidates incorrectly responded with nail types, shapes and conditions.

A similar trend was seen where candidates were not able to demonstrate the depth of their understanding and instead answered with a simple recall of basic facts. Responses were limited where candidates were asked to explain the importance of full curing. Many candidates responded with the gel process and related to the inhibition layer rather than providing linked explanations and therefore missed the opportunity to access the full range of marks available.

Candidates also struggled to display their depth of understanding on questions asking for advantages of a hard gel system and compared to other systems. Responses lacked further understanding of what could inhibit the bonding process of a system.

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge from across the qualification. The majority of candidates provided some justification to treatment plans linking to the client's needs and achieved marks in band 2. However, marks were lost where candidates provided very basic treatment plans that were not linked to the client's needs as outlined in the case study. Some candidates appeared to be uncertain of the information provided in the scenario and consequently provided incorrect recommendations.

The majority of candidates used correct and appropriate industry terminology. Some responses referred to relevant and correct aftercare advice, although some missed considering this fully

within their response. Candidates that achieved higher marks demonstrated evidence of reasoning and critical thinking rather than simply a recall of knowledge or a narrative description of services and activities. The stronger responses considered a range of treatment options and provided accurate justification for the choices and recommendations made.

In order to achieve higher marks candidates are encouraged to consider all aspects of the service, taking into account the client's needs with justifications for their recommendations. 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 this question.

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-andcomplementary-therapies/beauty/6003-beauty-therapy-nails-and-spa#tab=documents>