



6003-32 Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Nail Technology

2022

Qualification Report

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Foreword

Results August 2022

As you will likely be aware, Ofqual has announced that grading for General Qualifications this summer will be more generous than prior to the pandemic. This is partly due to managing the impact of disruption and learning loss on learner performance and also managing fairness between learners in different years who had different methods of determining their grades. Therefore, for A levels and GCSEs, grading will seek a midway position between 2019 and 2021, meaning, in general, results will be somewhat higher than prior to the pandemic. This year, 2022, is a transitional year and outcomes and standards will likely return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

Similarly, for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs), this summer will be a transitional year and Ofqual has now been clear that for VTQs “we should expect that this summer’s results will look different, despite exams and assessments taking a big step towards normality.” Ofqual has published a blog [What’s behind this summer’s VTQ results.](#)

In acknowledgement of the disruption to learning and to support fairness for all learners certificating this summer (some of whom will be competing against learners taking General Qualifications for the same progression and higher education opportunities), we will be taking loss of learning into consideration, whilst still acknowledging the need to uphold the validity of the qualifications. On this basis, we have made the decision to apply a form of ‘safety net’ through some additional ‘generosity’ to both the theory examinations and synoptic assignments within our Technical Qualifications wherever appropriate, (noting that it may not be appropriate to apply where there is a clear impact on knowledge and skills to practice, particularly health and safety requirements or other relevant legislation). We are therefore also reviewing candidate work a few marks below (equivalent to 5% of maximum marks) the Pass and Distinction notional boundaries – the boundaries used during the awarding process as the best representation of maintaining the performance standard from 2019.

The reason for lowering boundaries, where appropriate, by 5% of the maximum marks available, is that it is broadly commensurate with the level of generosity learners are likely to see in General Qualifications at level 2 and level 3. Providing that senior examiners can support the quality of learners’ work seen below the notional boundaries and agree it is sufficient to maintain the integrity, meaning and credibility of the qualifications, the grade boundaries will be lowered across the full set of grades – e.g. Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction Star.

Given the circumstances, this is the best approach to take into account the disruption to teaching and learning across every learner in a fair and transparent way, and at the same time maintain the integrity and meaning of qualifications. This approach helps to level our Technical Qualifications awarding approach with that adopted for General Qualifications and other qualifications awarded in England and in the wider UK.

Spring examination series 2022

Having taken this decision, we are also mindful of learners who have taken components in **Spring 2022** and believe they should also have access to the same level of generosity. For these learners, we wish to adopt a similar approach. Therefore, for learners taking Technical Qualification assessments in spring there will be similar generosity, through the addition of 5% of the maximum mark available for the assessment. It is a different mechanism to that we are using for the summer assessments but provides the same level of generosity to those learners taking assessments in the summer.

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.

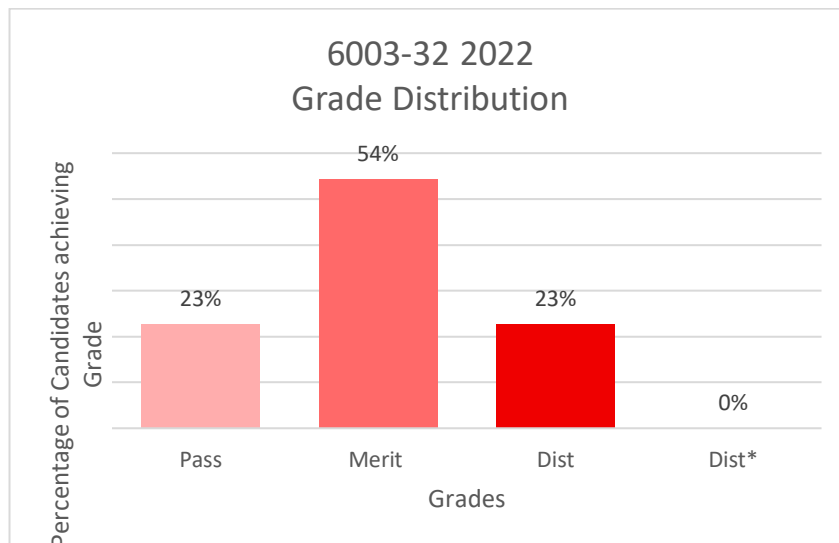
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments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

- 6003-034/534 Level 3 Nail Technology – Theory exam
 - March 2022 (Spring)
 - June 2022 (Summer)
- 6003-035 Level 3 Nail Technology – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



This data is based on the distribution as of 16 August 2022.

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

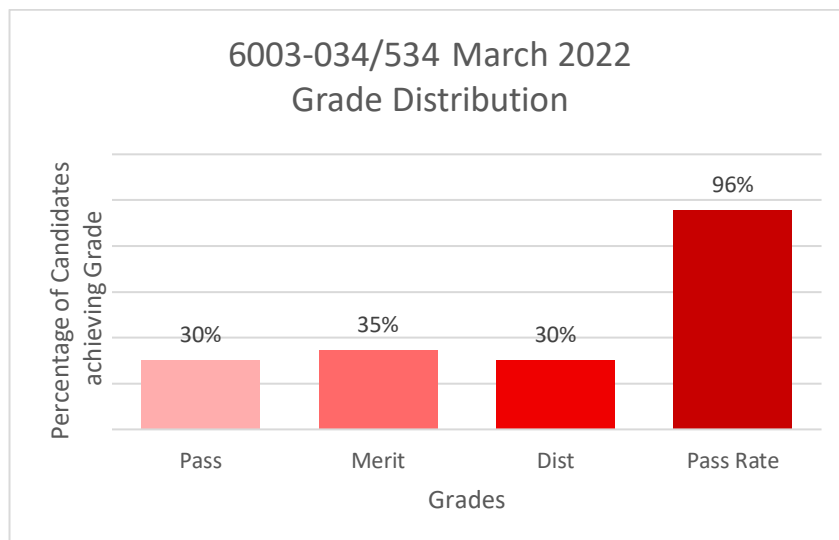
Assessment: 6003-034/534
Series: March 2022 (Spring)

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	42

The generosity applied to the summer assessments will also retrospectively be applied to candidates who achieved their best result in spring. 5% of the base mark of the assessment will be added to their score rather than applied to boundaries.

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 due to generosity:

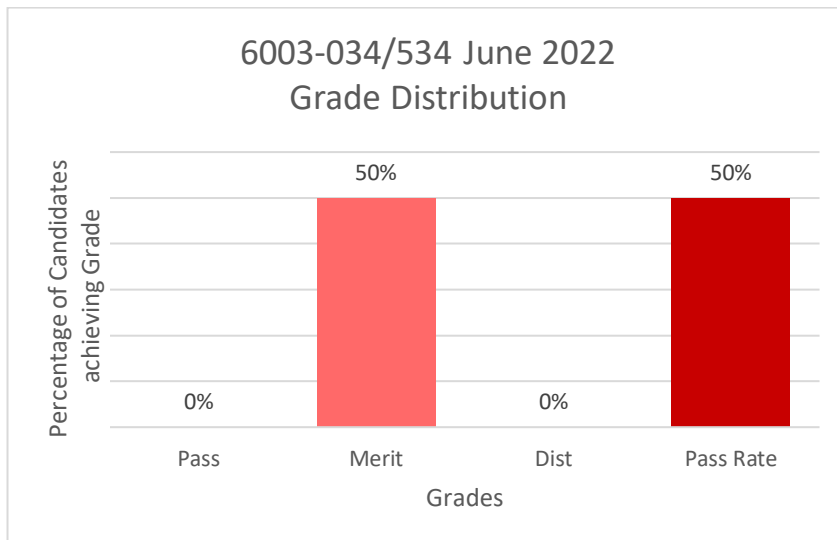


Assessment: 6003-034/534
Series: June 2022 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	23
Merit mark	31
Distinction mark	39

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



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component:6003-034/534

Series 1 – March 2022

The paper was inclusive enabling candidates to be stretched and challenged to show their breadth of knowledge at a good Level 3 standard. 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.

Like in previous years, the short state, describe questions were answered better than the questions that required a detailed explanation and justification however in some area's candidates tried to justify answers when they were required to state. Candidates often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner and link their responses; their responses in areas often lacked depth and breadth and candidates repeated themselves.

Overall, candidates demonstrated good knowledge and were able to achieve the majority of marks on topics related to methods of enhancement nail removal and the process of removing different types of gel enhancements, as well as manufacturers specified cure times for gel services. Candidates also performed well when describing the use of nail art tools. The anatomy and physiology in this paper was answered well and gained some high marks showing a breadth of knowledge with relevant explanations. The explanations were correct in most areas and linked well. Candidates also showed a knowledge of consultation requirements and preparation of the nail area, which works well with industry.

There was a lack of understanding demonstrated in the question related to the chemical background. Many candidates struggled to identify the catalysts within all systems and stated products used in the systems. The questions relating to art regarding secondary and tertiary colours candidates struggled with tertiary not able to gain the top marks. There was also a lack of understanding of what is included in a maintenance service although candidates did attempt to answer.

Candidates are reminded to read the question fully before answering to ensure their answers relate to the question. Candidates showed limited understanding of maintenance listing services and missed the opportunity to access the full range of marks available.

Extended response question

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge from across the qualification. A high percentage 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 statements relating to the client's needs as outlined in the case study.

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 were where candidates were able to access marks in band 3 and 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. They will need the ability to compare, justify, discuss and evaluate a proposed, well-considered plan. This will give the 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>

Series 2 – June 2022

There was a small cohort of candidates entered for this examination. The paper was inclusive enabling candidates to be stretched and challenged to show breadth of knowledge and understanding. Candidates that were successful in this examination showed that they can use industry specific terminology and had sufficient knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently in a nail salon.

Like in previous years, 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. Candidates often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner and link their responses.

Candidates demonstrated good knowledge and were able to achieve the majority of marks on topics related to factors to consider planning a commercial photo shoot, safety considerations when carrying out nail services and maintaining shelf life of nail products.

Candidates demonstrated weaknesses in both the knowledge and understanding questions that related to Anatomy and Physiology and were only able to achieve minimal marks on topics related to the blood vessels of the arm, compositions of the blood and characteristics of a dry skin type.

Candidates showed limited understanding and missed the opportunity to access full range of marks available in the topics related to the differences between the nail zones and environmental conditions that affect liquid and powder application.

Extended response question

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge from across the qualification. Candidates provided justified treatment plans linking to the client's needs. Responses in the middle band included some considerations, however they could not access the higher band as their responses were also partly step by step. Responses in the lower band were at a basic level and lacked depth of knowledge, justifications and discussions as no treatment options were provided. Incorrect process of services and incorrect terminology were used.

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

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Synoptic Assignment

Grade Boundaries

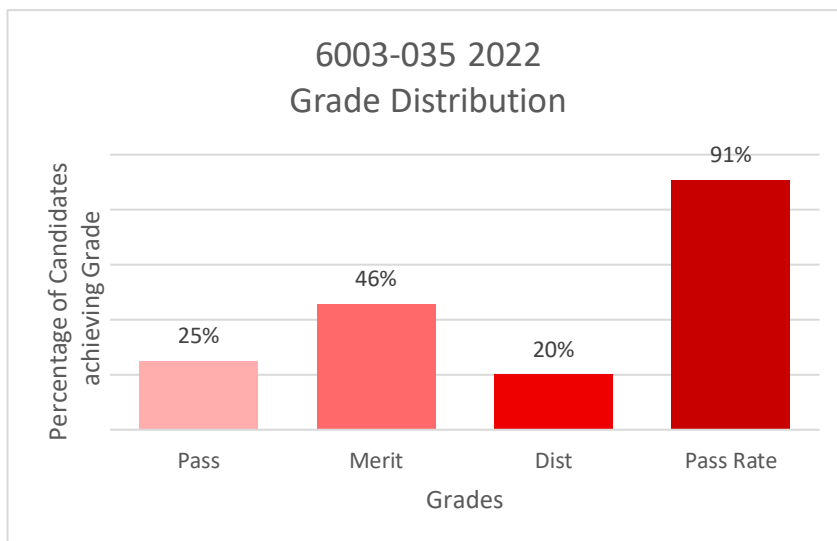
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Assessment: 6003-035

Series: 2022

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	40

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 altered by the moderators, reflected this.

Many candidates showed consistency of marks across the qualification without the use of prompts. There was a definite divide between the higher scoring and lower scoring candidates who graded consistently across most areas. Many candidates were better at recalling AO1 information rather than providing the Understanding AO2.

Breakdown of performance against each AO - Strengths and weaknesses

AO1 Recall of Knowledge

Candidates mostly fell in band 2 demonstrating fair to sound knowledge. Health and Safety legislation and hygiene practises were generally evidenced through the tutor feedback on Performance Observation Forms and higher candidates documented this area well in their service plans. Some centres included verbal questioning and recorded the answers to draw out additional knowledge. Most candidates selected a good range of products tools and equipment and evidenced a fair amount of knowledge when detailing their individual features, benefits and uses. In general candidates provided sufficient evidence of knowledge from the advice and recommendations given to clients.

AO2 Understanding of concepts theories and processes

Most candidates provided a fair understanding across tasks 1 and 2 but gained more marks for their understanding in task 3. Some candidates missed opportunities by not fulfilling the assessment brief. Higher scoring candidates understood the consultation process and provided sound reasoning for the uses of products, systems and adaptations. Lower scoring candidates missed opportunities to gain higher marks through the lack of understanding of the use of different techniques for different clients. A list of procedures was observed and lacked in justifications, terminology, and chemical processes. Including more explanations and justifications would have provided stronger evidence that the candidate understood concepts rather than recalled knowledge.

Candidates demonstrated a fair understanding of task 1 and 2. Most candidates Business plans showed a lack of applied theory with general links between research, planning and starting a business. Evidence contained inconsistencies in financial forecasting, costings, the required Health and Safety legislations and other requirements.

Within task 3 higher achieving candidates demonstrated a good amount of evidence when linking the treatment plan of individual clients to their applications. Explanations were generally free from misunderstanding with some depth. The use of terminology and detail of chemical processes were good.

Candidates Look Books either lacked in research or missed the opportunity to fully meet the brief through the lack of images presenting their own work and a varied range of services at level 3. Although, the industry portfolio is not marked through moderation, examples seen continue to show a lack of knowledge and understanding as to what its content should be and how this should be presented. Many examples were a duplication of the candidates look book.

AO3 Application of practical/technical skills

Overall candidates across the cohort achieved the highest marks in this AO compared to others. Candidates generally followed health & safety, safe working practices and had a good level of communication and professionalism outlined in the tutor comments. However, most candidates were unable to complete services within the acquired time scales.

Many candidates demonstrated basic skills which were particularly evident within nail design and art applications with many candidates lacking creativity and originality, applying simple designs often seen in level 2 assignments which limited their opportunity to gain higher marks.

There were inconsistencies evident between the two enhancement systems with many candidates demonstrated stronger performance in the application of liquid and powder applications compared to Hard gel. This was noticeable in the overall finish and time management. Inconsistencies were generally present with form fitting and the overall nail structure. There was some evidence of neat crisp smile lines that had been achieved using reverse techniques and good balance between the pink and white across the set of nails.

Higher level candidates either evidenced a safe number of techniques, showed a good attention to detail or used advanced and varied techniques but lacked refinement.

Adequate aftercare advice and recommendations were provided by most candidates with higher scoring candidates gaining additional marks by evidencing clear attempts to promote products and services with some explanations.

AO4 Bringing it all together coherence of the whole subject

Most candidates gained mid to high marks in band 2. Candidates could analysis, reflect and evaluate task 3 with some success, highlighting some areas for improvement. Many candidates used the evaluation as an opportunity to provide additional reasoning to link product choices, systems and services to clients. Higher marks could have been gained through including more depth such as the reason for selecting a particular system and technique to the clients' needs and nail type and shape.

Candidates' Business Plans were generally presented in a logical order and included most of the necessary components with inconsistencies. Limited amalgamation of research was demonstrated in some candidates. Higher performing candidates showed more understanding of planning a business demonstrated costings and future forecasting, a strong ethos and relevant referencing.

There was some evidence of theory being applied when planning designs. Candidates mostly met the brief for Look Book task; however, some candidates content was limited and did not fully meet the brief. Most candidates chose to present their look books electronically in an office document which took some of the creative elements away from the task.

The application of knowledge and understanding was more evident in task 3 with higher learners providing detail and depth when documenting problem solving or make adaptations to meet client requirements.

Effective time management was noted by tutors for most candidates, however for some periods of time was wasted and not all tasks were finish in time.

AO5 Attending to detail/ perfecting

The attention to detail within task 3 was mixed across the centres. The high scoring candidates who gained high marks within AO3 and AO4 also gained similar marks within the area.

Higher scoring candidates demonstrated a better attention to detail in the application and finishing of nail enhancements. Although nail structures had some inconsistencies with apex placement the general application was neater. The development of nail art which was simple in techniques was mainly neatly applied.

Lower scoring candidates demonstrated inconsistencies in application techniques lacking in the attention to detail required across the tasks. Nails required more finesse in the finishing to create an even surface and application to be neater around the cuticle and sidewalls without skin contact.

Candidates needed to show more attention to detail with the finishing of Look Book task. Some candidate's images lacked in proportion to the page and written details were untidy.

Examples of best practice

Tutors made justifications and comments which were appropriate, applicable to the marking grid 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 the typed versioned encompassing all information across the ranges.

Although not seen across all centres, candidates were asked additional questions with answers evidenced which allowed candidates the opportunity to gain extra marks in the knowledge and understanding AO's.

Feedback on uploading of images

Images in most cases centres met the assignment requirements including the images throughout the services, clarity, and the variety of angles of the finish for task 3.

Centres overall uploaded candidates' images, Look Book and Business plan into a single document i.e. Word Document or PowerPoint, centres are encouraged to follow this practice. Some images were too small with more than one applied to a page and out of sequence of the service making evidence not as easy to decipher.