



6003-30 Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Beauty & Spa Therapy

2023

Qualification Report

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Qualification Grade Distribution.....	4
Theory Exam.....	5
Grade Boundaries.....	5
Chief Examiner Commentary.....	7
Synoptic Assignment.....	11
Grade Boundaries.....	11
Principal Moderator Commentary.....	12

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.

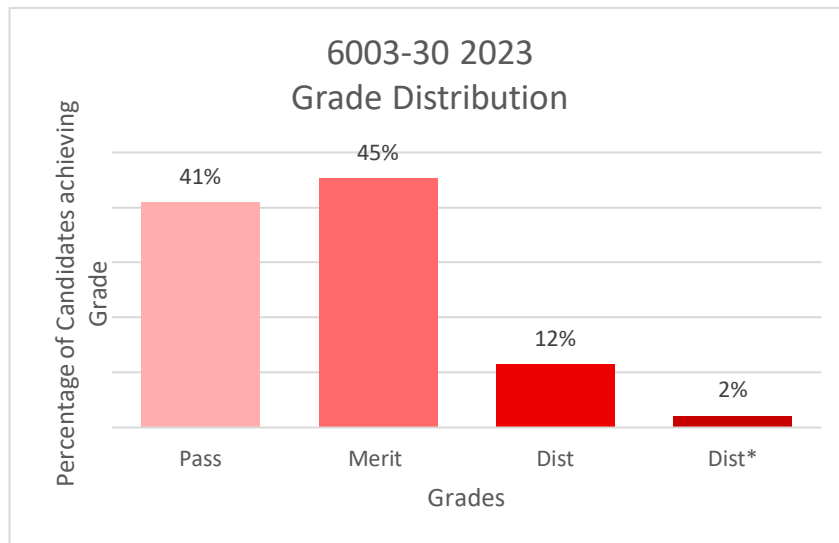
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2023 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 6003-030/530 Level 3 Beauty & Spa Therapy – Theory exam
 - March 2023 (Spring)
 - June 2023 (Summer)
- 6003-031 Level 3 Beauty & Spa Therapy – Synoptic Assignment

Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



This data is based on the distribution as of 17 August 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

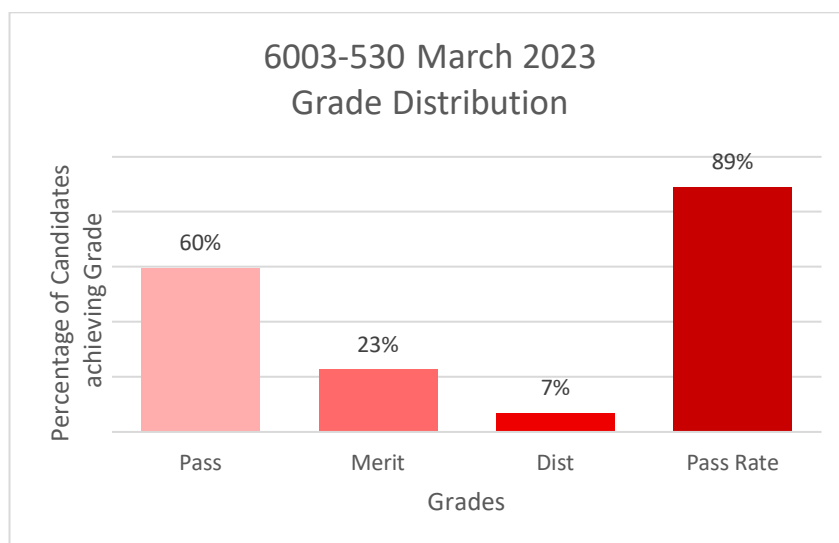
Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 6003-030/530
Series: March 2023

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

Total marks available	80
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	39
Distinction mark	50

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

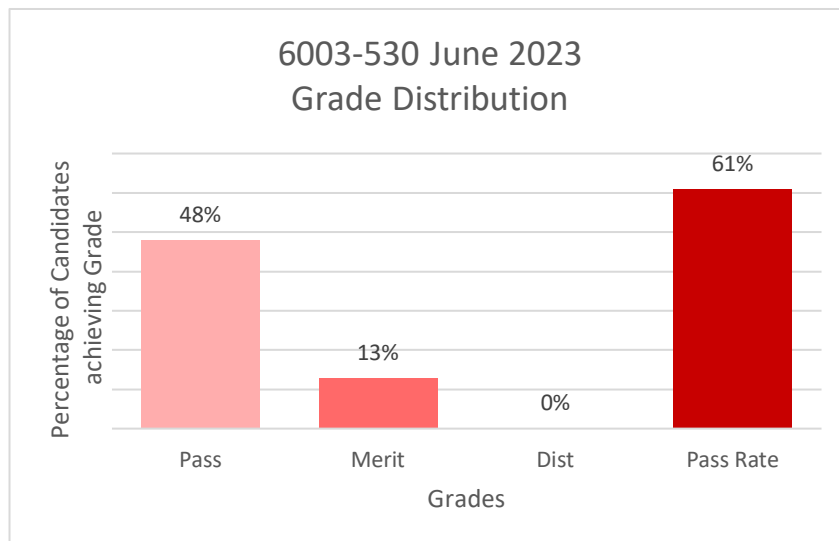


Assessment: 6003-030/530
Series: June 2023 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Total marks available	80
Pass mark	27
Merit mark	38
Distinction mark	50

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



Chief Examiner Commentary

6003-030/530 Level 3 Level 3 Beauty & Spa Therapy – Theory exam

Series 1 – March 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. They demonstrated that they could problem solve, adapt treatments, work safely and independently when carrying out treatments.

Short response questions such as 'state', 'list' and 'describe' were answered well throughout the paper. The vocational knowledge questions as usual were generally well answered. These included, in particular, topics relating to buying signals within the sales cycle, marketing methods, body conditions, methods to minimise cross infection, and safe working practices during body treatments which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

Some vocational understanding questions were also answered well by some candidates; in particular topics relating to comparing the different electrotherapy equipment used in mechanical massage, benefits of using electrical equipment as individual or combination treatments, and characteristics of different skin types which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

The majority of candidates demonstrated weaknesses in both the knowledge and understanding questions that related to anatomy and physiology. Some candidates omitted to attempt to answer these questions and some responses indicated the candidates had not read the question correctly and others demonstrated very little knowledge and understanding of the topics. Areas within anatomy and physiology where the candidates did not perform well on include actions of the muscles, functions of the lymphatic organs, pathologies of the endocrine system and functions of the digestive organs. Those candidates that were gaining higher marks in the paper were still only gaining a few marks in the anatomy and physiology questions.

Many candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding in the topic related to the use of appropriate adaptations, massage techniques and products on clients. Some responses stated general set up processes with no reference made to how to adapt the actual massage treatment.

Many candidates showed a lack of understanding in the topic related to effects of electrotherapy equipment when carrying out an Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS) treatment. The candidates showed confusion between frequency and pulse width. Many responses were answered incorrectly by referring to frequency as the contraction period and pulse width as the relaxation period.

Extended response question

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge and understanding from across the qualification to create a suitable treatment plan to meet the client's needs. Some candidates performed well creating treatment plans with justifications to meet the client's needs detailing how each treatment would be carried out with further options and recommendations whilst others gave basic treatment plans with very little detail. Marks were lost where candidates created very basic treatment plans that were not linked to the client's needs as outlined in the case study and omitted aftercare advice. Marks were also lost where the order of treatments was not discussed in the most appropriate order.

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.

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

Series 2 – June 2023

The examination paper covered a wide range of learning outcomes across the qualification and was comparable to the previous series in relation to content and challenge. Candidates were better prepared for the extended response question and provided clear plans tailored to client needs. 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 some 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.

The short vocational related knowledge questions were answered generally better than the questions that required a detailed explanation in particular topics relating to promoting treatments, setting up work areas and safe working practices which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

Many responses demonstrated a lack of understanding on topics relating to adaptations to massage treatments, benefits of using a course of EMS on weak muscles and carrying out an effective facial galvanic treatment on client. Their responses often gave identification points but failed to expand on these to demonstrate their understanding.

The candidates struggled with the anatomy & physiology AO1 recall and AO2 understanding questions. A lot of candidates omitted to answer the questions or gave random answers demonstrating limited knowledge and understanding of the topic areas. Areas where the candidates did not do well include pathologies of the skin, action of the muscles, lymphatic organs, muscle contraction and cardiac cycles which many omitted to respond to and for those that did attempt to answer incorrectly stated organs or parts of the cardiac system e.g. heart, veins and blood. Those candidates that were gaining higher marks in the paper were still only gaining a few marks in the anatomy and physiology questions.

Extended response question

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. There was an improvement in the responses compared to previous years. The extended response question answers tended to be well structured creating a justified treatment plan that was relevant to the client's needs and achieved middle band marks. However many omitted to include further treatment recommendations and aftercare provided was generic and not tailored to the clients' needs. The order of treatments was not necessarily discussed in the most appropriate order. Candidates that achieved higher marks 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 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.

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

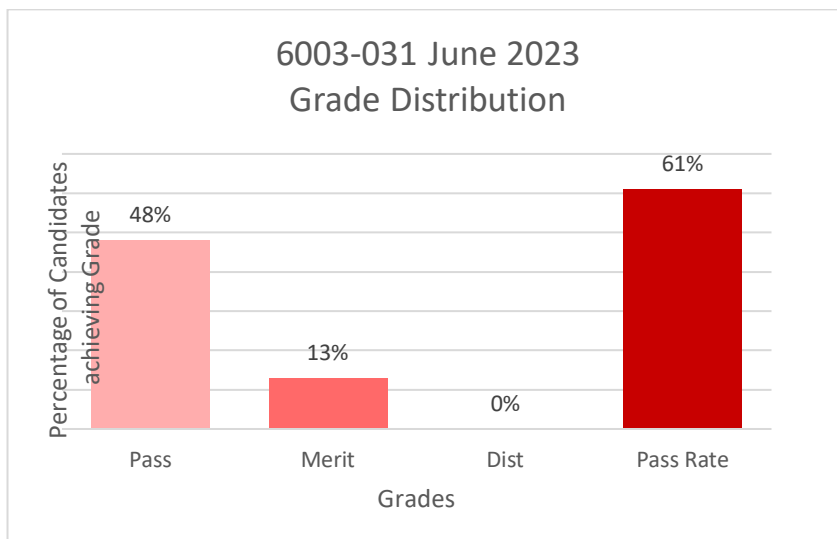
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Assessment: 6003-031

Series: 2023

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	24
Merit mark	35
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 Level 3 Beauty & Spa Therapy synoptic assignment brief was the same as previous years covering two tasks. Task 1 entailed carrying out a pamper day, followed with an evaluation which is task 2. It was the responsibility of the centre to source the clients, and these clients were to be unfamiliar to the candidate.

Higher achieving candidates showed consistency throughout the synoptic assessment, and this was evident in the marks allocated across all the assessment objectives. There was a definite divide between the higher and lower achieving candidates. The higher achieving candidates worked confidently, meeting the needs of the client and planning the treatments in the most appropriate order. Lower achieving candidates showed hesitation, their application was not second nature and treatments carried out were not the best suited to the clients' needs. Candidates were better at recalling information (AO1) rather than demonstrating the understanding (AO2).

Centres used the practical observation forms and the majority of markers recorded oral questions asked and responses from the candidate. There was a variation of questions used from knowledge questions (AO1) e.g. state the action of the rectus abdominus and understanding questions (AO2) e.g. explain why you are using negative polarity during your body galvanic treatment.

Breakdown of performance against each AO - Strengths and weaknesses

AO1 – Recall of knowledge

Most candidates carried out an adequate consultation demonstrating knowledge of contra-indications and adhered to following the correct Health & Safety procedures and selecting a range of products. The higher scoring candidates demonstrated excellent knowledge in their face and body analysis and were able to pick treatments that corresponded to the client's needs.

AO2 - Understanding of concepts theories and processes

The lower achieving candidates showed inconsistencies when linking their chosen treatments to the clients' needs; some picked treatments that were less challenging and they felt comfortable with carrying out. The higher scoring candidates gave clear reasoning for their choices and demonstrated understanding on equipment settings and treatment techniques. For many candidates their aftercare and future treatment recommendations were generic and brief whereas the higher scoring candidates linked their advice to the clients with clear justifications.

AO3 - Application of practical/technical skills

Most candidates demonstrated that this was their strongest area and many achieved marks in band 2 and 3, carrying out high quality treatments with confidence and demonstrating professionalism throughout the pamper day event. The lower scoring candidates demonstrated little engagement with their client, were not consistent with their skills, showed hesitation and applied treatments without taking into consideration adaptations that may have enhanced the treatments to meet the client's needs. Many of the candidates carried out treatments that showed good fluency of skills which included appropriate modifications. The higher scoring candidate demonstrated effective communication techniques, with confident use of technical terminology to suit their client's level of understanding.

AO4- Bringing it all together coherence of the whole subject

The higher scoring candidates demonstrated their ability to problem solve during treatment as they arose by adapting their working practice to deal with factors that affected treatments. These candidates demonstrated effective time management with organisational skills as very little time was wasted setting up equipment and preparing the client for the range of treatments. Treatments flowed seamlessly from one to another. The lower scoring candidates showed hesitation within their work methods and sometimes left clients for periods of time searching for additional attachments, products etc which all had an impact on time management.

AO5- Attending to detail/ perfecting

The higher scoring candidates focussed on the client's needs showing care and accuracy in the planning and application of treatments. They demonstrated attention to detail often including extra treatments such as a head massage during the application of the face mask. They completed a detailed evaluation and reflected on what they could improve upon and gave full details of alternative treatments. Many candidates gave the client a little bit extra during the treatments. The lower scoring candidate did not carry out treatments in a logical sequence and gave brief evaluation on the justifications of treatments carried out.

Examples of best practice

Candidates were provided standard City & Guilds paperwork to complete for the consultation and treatment plans which ensured consistent application across all centres, and this allowed the higher-level candidates to excel and to bring together all their knowledge and understanding in devising the most appropriate treatment package.

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.