



6003-32 Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Nail Technology

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.

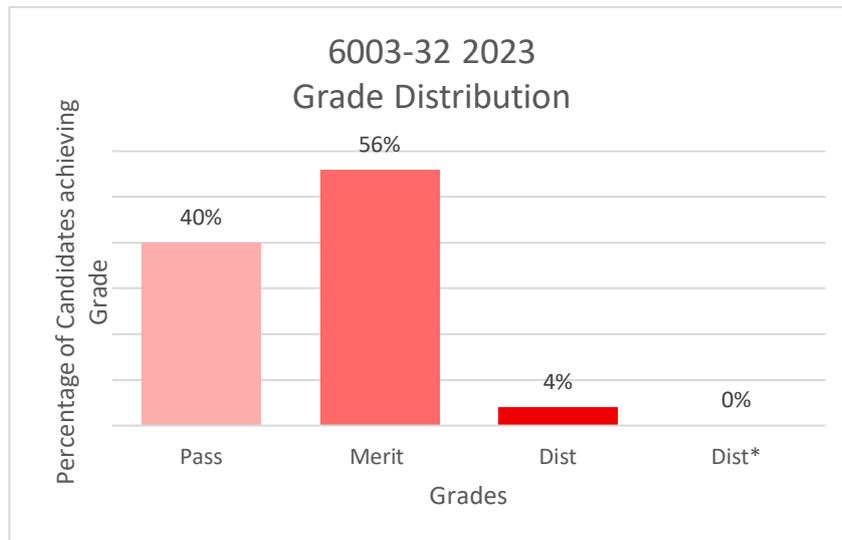
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments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

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 6003-034/534 Level 3 Nail Technology – Theory exam
 - March 2023 (Spring)
 - June 2023 (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 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 and distribution

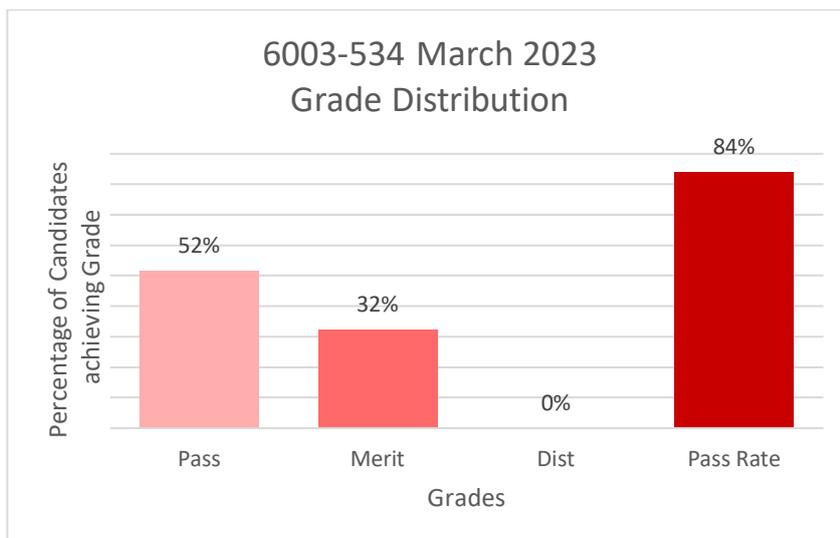
Assessment: **6003-534**

Series: **March 2023**

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

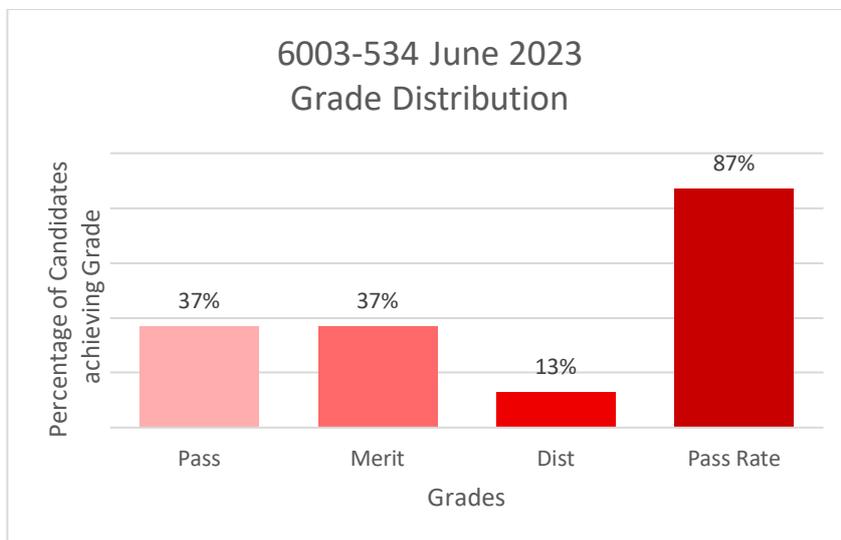


Assessment: 6003-034/534
Series: June 2023 (Summer)

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

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

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: 6003-534

Series 1 (March)

The paper was inclusive enabling candidate to be stretched and challenged to show the breadth of knowledge and understanding. 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. As seen in previous series, anatomy and physiology continues to be a challenge for most candidates. 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.

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. Overall, candidates demonstrated good knowledge and were able to achieve the majority of marks on topics related to treatable nail conditions, hygiene procedures, seasonal designs, considerations of a nail art design, manufacturer's instructions and nail preparation products, which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

Most candidates struggled with anatomy and physiology questions. Many candidates did not attempt these questions and some responses indicated that the candidates had very little understanding of the topic areas. Areas where the candidates did not do well include types of joints and movements. Candidates also struggled to explain fascia and ligament structures associated with the muscular system and instead explained the movements.

There was a lack of understanding demonstrated in the question related to chemical additives. The majority of the candidates struggled and incorrectly described the differences of Methyl methacrylate (MMA) and Ethyl methacrylate (EMA) which are not additives. They also incorrectly described the polymerisation process and chemical reactions. Many candidates demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the topic area related to the requirements of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) with responses focussing on information that is required on a service plan instead of how client information is recorded for GDPR.

Extended response question

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge from across the qualification. The integrated question this year was performed well by candidates showing a breadth of knowledge. Some of the candidates achieved marks in the higher band due to their considerations and justifications throughout the service plan. 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. Overall, some candidates needed to add depth to their response and show underpinning knowledge in justification of services and products for the client.

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 2023

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.

Most candidates performed better on the AO1 recall questions compared to the AO2 understanding questions. There were some gaps in knowledge across the most challenging aspects the question paper, however all questions were attempted, and some detailed and correct answers were seen. 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.

The majority of candidates demonstrated good knowledge and were able to achieve the majority of marks on topics related to correct practices for preparing brushes, communication techniques used in consultation and Health & Safety Practices relating to PPE.

Candidates often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner and link their responses. Many 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 types of vessels, locations of muscles and actions of muscles.

Candidates generally achieved some marks showing some understanding on the topic related to the adaptation of nail services however they showed limited understanding and missed the opportunity to access full range of marks available in the topics related to chemical ingredients in hard gel, avoidance of over exposure to nail products and use of embellishments in nail art services.

Extended response question

The extended response question was similar to the previous series using a different case study scenario enabling candidates to bring together their knowledge and understanding and create a suitable treatment plan. The question is intended to draw on knowledge from across the qualification. Many 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

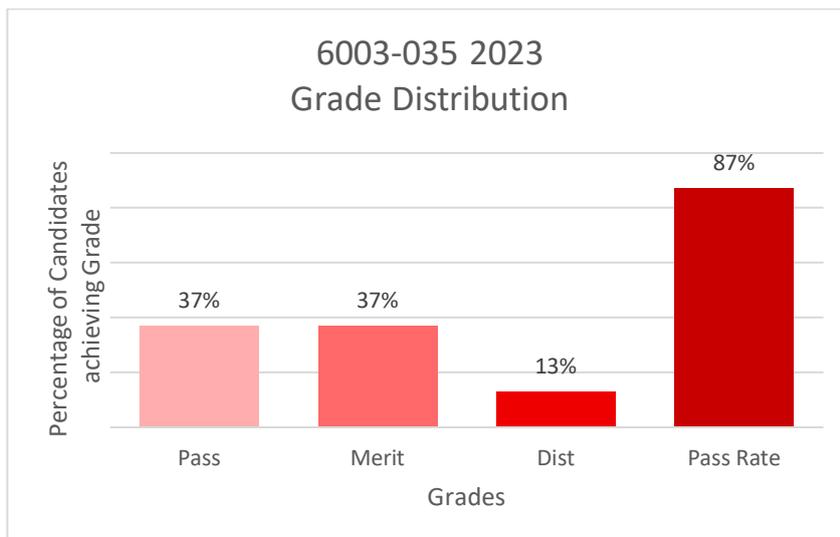
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment:

Assessment: 6003-035

Series: 2023

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	27
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	43

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.

The majority of 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 3 demonstrating strong knowledge. Health and Safety legislation and hygiene practises were generally evidenced through the tutor feedback on Performance Observation Forms and most candidates documented this area well in their service plans. Centres included verbal questioning and recorded the answers to draw out additional depth of candidate's knowledge. Candidates selected a good range of products tools and equipment and evidenced a good amount of knowledge when detailing their individual features, benefits and uses. In general candidates provided good evidence of knowledge through the advice and recommendations provided to clients.

AO2 Understanding of concepts theories and processes

Most candidates provided a good understanding the tasks but generally gained the most marks for their understanding in task 3. Higher scoring candidates understood the consultation process and provided good reasoning and well explained links between treatment objectives, planning and their application including adaptations. Lower scoring candidates missed opportunities to gain higher marks through the lack of understanding of nail structure, use of terminology and chemical processes and including adaptations. A list of procedures was observed and lacked in justifications. By including more explanations and justifications this would have provided stronger evidence that the candidate understood concepts rather than recalled knowledge.

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. 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 demonstrated sufficient 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 SWOT analysis, financial forecasting and costings. There were also gaps in the requirements when starting a business such as legal requirements e.g. various insurances.

Candidates Look Books showed a lack of clear research and a variation of services at level 3. The Look Book was viewed as an 'after thought' rather than a professional resource to use when consulting with clients in a professional environment.

AO3 - Application of practical/technical skills

Most candidates demonstrated that this was their strongest area with the general success of application of skills. There were some inconsistencies within this outcome, and most were unable to complete the gel service within the acquired time scales. The skill level of the candidates

showed some precision and demonstrated a range of techniques at varying levels. Candidates selected appropriate products, tools and equipment and applications were applied without wastage. Candidates showed good Health & Safety, safe working practices and had a good level of communication and professionalism which was outlined in the tutor comments. Higher scoring candidates showed evidence of a safe number of techniques, some good attention to detail, and a few candidates used advanced techniques.

Many candidates demonstrated a fair level of skill when applying the hard gel system and nail design and art applications with lower scoring candidates lacking creativity and originality, applying simple designs often seen in level 2 assignments. Higher level candidates evidenced a safe number of techniques and showed a good attention to detail but needed more refinement. A good understanding of methods which resulted in crisp smile lines and well-structured nails was also seen at his level.

Many candidates demonstrated a stronger performance in the application of liquid and powder applications compared to hard gel particularly when using a sculpting method. This was noticeable in the overall finish and applications were generally not completed in within the agreed time. Inconsistencies were generally present with form fitting, product control and the overall nail structure. There was some evidence of neat crisp smile lines that had been achieved using reverse techniques and had a good balance between the pink and white across the set of nails.

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 additional 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 rather than within the treatment plan. Higher marks could have been gained through including more depth in the reflection of the services and how the performance and result could have been improved.

Business plans were mostly presented in a logical order and included most of the necessary components with some 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 met the brief for the Look Book task. Most candidates chose to present their Look Books electronically in an office document which takes some of the creative elements away from the task. Where candidates presented the look book in hard back images were not always clear.

The application of knowledge and understanding was more evident in task 3 with higher achieving 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, not all tasks were finished in time.

AO5 - Attending to detail/ perfecting

The attention to detail within Task 3 was mixed across the centres. The high scoring candidates who gain high marks within AO3 and AO4 also gained similar marks within the area. Candidates were able to demonstrate good attention to clients' needs with some attempts to exceed expectations, during planning design and services through consultation and application. Look

Books which were presented in hard back form required more finesse in the presentation and finishing.

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 often simple in the techniques used but 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

Most 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

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 Documents 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.