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The art of colouring hair

Colouring is one of the most popular services carried out in salons today, with male and female clients alike. You'll produce a fantastic variety of colours and effects, from blending in white hair for natural looks, to adding bright tones for dramatic images, or lightening the hair to different shades of blonde. This unit is the very foundation of colouring techniques; you'll learn how colour works and how to choose colour, along with how to advise on colour suitability and maintenance.

Assignment mark sheet

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Your assessor will mark you on each of the practical tasks in this unit. This page is used to work out your overall grade for the unit. You must pass **all** parts of the tasks to be able to claim a grade. For each completed practical task, a pass equals 1 point, a merit equals 2 points and a distinction equals 3 points.

What you must know	Tick when complete
Task 1a: colour guide	
Task 1b: chart	
Task 1c: chart	
Task 1d: fact sheet	

What you must do	Grade	Points
Task 2a: temporary colour		
Task 2b: semi-permanent colour		

Conversion chart	
Grade	Points
Pass	1–1.5
Merit	1.6–2.5
Distinction	2.6–3

Total points for graded tasks	
Divided by	÷ 2
= Average grade for tasks	
Overall grade (see conversion chart)	

Candidate name:

Candidate signature: _____ Date: _____

Assessor signature: _____ Date: _____

Quality assurance co-ordinator signature (where applicable): _____ Date: _____

External Verifier signature (where applicable): _____ Date: _____

What does it mean?

Some useful words are explained below



Colour depth

Lightness or darkness of the hair, eg 2–9 on the International Colour Chart system.

Lightener

Products that lighten the natural pigments of the hair without depositing artificial colour, otherwise known as bleach or pre-lighteners.

Manufacturer's instructions

Explicit guidance by manufacturers or suppliers on the use of products, tools and equipment.

Colour development strand test

Also known as a strand test, this is carried out during the processing stage to check the development of the colour or lightener.



Colour tone

The colours you see in the hair, for example red, copper, golden.



Melanin

The pigment that gives colour to the skin and hair. Different types of melanin give hair different colours; for example, eumelanin is responsible for black and brown tones.

Contra-indication

Something that may cause an adverse reaction to a hairdressing product, service or chemical.

Elasticity test

A test carried out to check the condition of the hair cortex.

Hydrogen peroxide

A chemical that is mixed with permanent colour and lighteners to activate the colour.

Incompatibility test

A test that is carried out on the hair before a chemical service, to check for the presence of metallic salts.



Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Equipment available for use in the workplace to protect you, your skin and clothes from damage when colouring hair, for example gloves, aprons, or overalls.



International Colour Chart (ICC)

The ICC is used to aid colour selection.

Porosity test

Carried out on the hair prior to applying colour to check how porous the hair is – uneven porosity may affect the colour outcome.

Skin test

A test carried out before the colour service is agreed, to check if the client's skin will react to the chemicals in the colouring product.

What you must know

You must be able to:

- 1 Explain the safety considerations that must be taken into account when colouring hair
- 2 Outline the types of colouring products and colouring techniques
- 3 State the factors that need to be considered when selecting colour products
- 4 Explain the importance of carrying out the necessary tests prior to and during the colour service and recording the results
- 5 Explain the principles of colour selection
- 6 Explain how natural hair pigments influence colour selection
- 7 Describe how the International Colour Chart is used to select colour
- 8 Describe how each of the colouring products affects the hair structure

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Image courtesy of Karine Jackson

Revision tip

Lightening products do not colour the hair: they only lift the natural (or artificial) colour pigments from the hair, and will carry on lifting lighter and lighter until the product is removed or has gone off.

- 9 Explain the uses of hydrogen peroxide when colouring the hair
- 10 Describe the different consultation techniques used to identify service objectives
- 11 Describe the salon's requirements for client preparation, preparing self and the work area
- 12 Describe the correct use and routine maintenance of tools and equipment
- 13 State the importance of restoring the pH of the hair after a permanent colour
- 14 Describe the aftercare advice that should be provided
- 15 Outline safe and hygienic working practices
- 16 State how to communicate and behave within a salon environment

Revision tip

Permanent colouring products are alkaline: they swell the hair structure, opening up the cuticle scales, so that the colour penetrates into the hair cortex.

Image courtesy of Michael Barnes (left)



Always wear non-latex gloves when applying and removing colouring products.

Color



Image courtesy of The Colour Project

Image courtesy of Cutting Room Creative

Image courtesy of TONI & GUY/Sammy Broadhurst



TONI & GUY

Image courtesy of The Colour Project



There's no limit to where your colouring creativity can take you!

What you must do

Practical observations

This page shows what you need to do during your practical task. You can look at it beforehand, but you're **not** allowed to have it with you while carrying out your practical task. You must achieve **all** the criteria; you can achieve 1 mark, 2 marks or 3 marks for the criteria indicated with *.

- 1 Prepare self, the client and the work area for colouring services
- 2 Use suitable consultation techniques to identify service objectives *
- 3 Assess the potential of the hair to achieve the desired look by identifying influencing factors *
- 4 Select and use application method, products, tools and equipment to colour hair
- 5 Position self, the client and the work area for colouring services
- 6 Apply the colour using neat sections
- 7 Monitor the development of the colour accurately, following the manufacturer's instructions
- 8 Remove the colour product thoroughly from the hair and scalp
- 9 Apply a suitable conditioner or post colour treatment to the hair, following the manufacturer's instructions
- 10 Create a desired look to the satisfaction of the client

Conversion chart (temporary colour)

Grade	Marks
Pass	11–12
Merit	13–16
Distinction	17–19

Conversion chart (semi-permanent colour)

Grade	Marks
Pass	14–15
Merit	16–19
Distinction	20–22

Colouring service					
1 Temporary colour			2 Semi-permanent colour		
1			1		
1	2	3	1	2	3
1	2	3	1	2	3
1			1		
1			1		
1			1		
1			1		
1			1		
1			1		

Continues on next page

- 11 Evaluate the results of the treatment with the client
- 12 Provide suitable aftercare advice *
- 13 Follow safe and hygienic working practices
- 14 Communicate and behave in a professional manner *

Totals

Grade

Candidate signature and date

Assessor signature and date

Colouring service					
1 Temporary colour			2 Semi-permanent colour		
1			1		
1	2	3	1	2	3
1			1		
1	2	3	1	2	3



Image courtesy of TONI&GUY/Paddington Sydney (left) Image courtesy of The Colour Project (right)

What you must do

Practical observations descriptors table

This table shows what you need to do to achieve 1, 2 or 3 marks for the criteria indicated with * on pages 8 and 9.

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
2 Use suitable consultation techniques to identify service objectives	Basic consultation carried out Example: uses open and closed questions	Good consultation carried out Examples: uses open and closed questions, uses visual aids, aware of own body language	Thorough consultation carried out Examples: uses open and closed questions, good use of visual aids, effective use of body language, repeats instructions clearly to gain confirmation
3 Assess the potential of the hair to achieve the desired look by identifying the influencing factors	Minimal evaluation Examples: carries out all necessary tests, assesses hair and scalp conditions, client requirements	Good evaluation Examples: carries out all necessary tests, assesses hair and scalp conditions, client requirements, hair growth patterns, previous services, client lifestyle	High level of evaluation Examples: carries out all necessary tests, assesses hair and scalp conditions, client requirements, hair growth patterns, previous services, client lifestyle, hair texture, haircut and length, hair density
12 Provide suitable aftercare advice	Basic aftercare advice Example: use of products	Good level of aftercare advice Examples: use of products and equipment	Excellent level of aftercare advice Examples: use of products and equipment, maintenance of style and further services available
14 Communicate and behave in a professional manner	Satisfactory communication and behaviour Examples: polite, friendly, positive body language, speaks clearly	Good communication and behaviour Examples: polite, friendly, positive body language, speaks clearly, respectful to colleagues and clients, listens and responds to clients' needs	Excellent communication and behaviour Examples: polite, friendly, positive body language, speaks clearly, respectful to colleagues and clients, listens and responds to clients' needs, shows a reassuring and confident manner

Comment form

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This form can be used to record comments by you, your client, or your assessor.

Image courtesy of TONI&GUY/Cronulla, Sydney



Image courtesy of Cutting Room Creative