

309

Hair extensions

Hair extensions are one of the main growth areas in hairdressing, and generate a large income. In this unit you will gain the skills and knowledge to work safely when preparing, adding and removing hair extensions. You will learn about the different methods of applying hair extensions, and the amazing looks that can be created – long and elegant, straight or curly. Volume and colour can be added to create a range of looks. Hair extensions can create spectacular results, and could be where your biggest profits are!

Assignment mark sheet

Unit 309 Hair extensions

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 the 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: produce an information sheet	
Task 1b: produce a chart	
Or tick if covered by an online test	

What you must do	Grade	Points
Task 2a: plaiting		
Task 2b: bonding		
Task 2c: removal		

Conversion chart

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

Total points for graded tasks	
Divided by	÷ 3
= 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



Aftercare advice

Advice that should be given to the client relevant to the treatment they have received. For an extension service, advice should be given on suitable products, tools, equipment, maintenance and removal of the extensions.



Analysis

A full assessment of the condition of the hair and scalp by doing a visual check and by manual testing to ensure there are no factors that would prevent a service from taking place.



Attachment methods

The different methods are: hot fusion, cold fusion, wefts, and plaiting. Hot fusion uses hot glue to attach the extensions. With cold fusion, the extensions are attached by using keratin-based polymer. Wefts are extensions that are sewn in to form small cornrows. With plaiting, extension hair is plaited together with human hair.



Bonding

A method of applying hair extensions using a glue to secure them to the existing hair.



Contra-indication

A contra-indication prevents a service or treatment from taking place, due to the presence of a disease, hair disorder, infection of the scalp or skin, or breakage of the hair.



Custom blended hair

Added hair is blended to match the client's hair colour.



Elasticity test

To determine the strength of the cortex. Hair with good elasticity will stretch and return to its original length without becoming damaged.

Pull test

This is carried out before the service to check that the hair will be able to withstand the extension service. The pull test helps to evaluate excessive and/or abnormal hair loss.

What does it mean?

Some useful words are explained below (continued)

Remy hair

Hair that has been cut from the head and the cuticles are all laying in the same direction.



Safe working practices

It is important to work safely. When preparing your work area for a hair extension service, it is important that all your tools are cleaned and sterilised.

Skin test

A test that is carried out 24–48 hours before the service to check if the client is allergic to the bonding glue.

Traction alopecia

A condition that is caused by the excessive pulling of the hair at the root.



Wefts

Long, continuous strands of pre-coloured hair that create a 'curtain' effect.

Image courtesy of Walsall College

Image courtesy of Balmain

What you must know

You must be able to:

- 1 Explain the influencing factors that need to be considered when preparing for hair extension services
- 2 Explain the safety considerations that must be taken into account
- 3 Describe the different consultation techniques used to identify service objectives
- 4 Describe the salon's requirements for client preparation, preparing yourself and the work area
- 5 Describe how to remedy problems that may occur during the service
- 6 Describe the aftercare advice that should be provided
- 7 Outline safe and hygienic working practices
- 8 State how to communicate and behave in a salon environment

Revision tip

It is important to carry out an elasticity test to ensure the internal structure of the hair is in good condition before carrying out any extension service.

Image courtesy of Balmain



Be the next ... *Rae Palmer*



Rae Palmer is Ambassador for Schwarzkopf's BlondMe and Essensity colour brands, and owner of luxury hair salon Rae Palmer Hairdressing. She was named Southern Hairdresser of the Year in the British Hairdressing Awards 2008–9. You can find her extensions advice under the blue quote marks!



Advise clients to return to the salon for the professional removal of hair extensions.



Added hair will create that unique look.

Extensions

During consultation, an elasticity test, a skin test and a pull test must be carried out to determine the suitability for the hair extensions.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions relating to preparing, handling and applying extensions. This will ensure you achieve the best results.

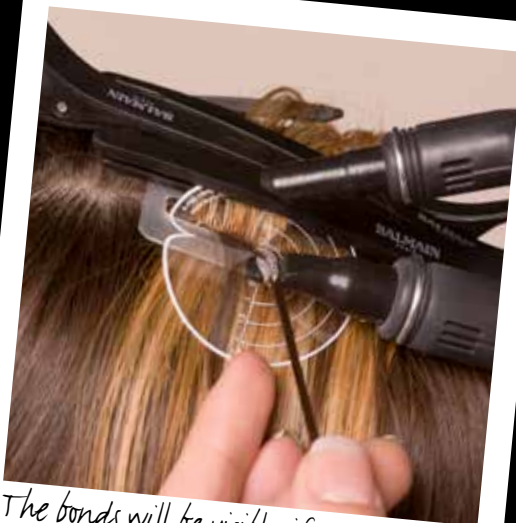
Influencing factors should be considered to ensure you achieve the best possible result for your client.



Extensions can add volume, length and colour.

EXTENSIONS

Handle synthetic wefts of hair with care. Hold them by the bonded end, allowing the hair to fall freely, as they can become easily matted or tangled.



The bonds will be visible if you place the extensions within 2cm of the client's natural hairline, parting or crown.

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 yourself, the client and work area for hair extension service
- 2 Use suitable consultation techniques to identify service objectives *
- 3 Evaluate the hair and scalp for suitability of hair extension service *
- 4 Provide clear recommendations based on factors *
- 5 Prepare hair extensions
- 6 Position yourself and the client appropriately throughout the service
- 7 Communicate and behave in a professional manner *
- 8 Prepare the hair in suitable sections allowing the hair to fall into direction required *
- 9 Use suitable hair extension methods to meet the hair type being worked on, taking into account influencing factors and following manufacturer's instructions
- 10 Check the balance and shape throughout the service

Conversion chart (plaiting/bonding)

Grade	Marks
Pass	15–17
Merit	18–23
Distinction	24–27

Conversion chart (removal)

Grade	Marks
Pass	8–9
Merit	10–13
Distinction	14–16

Hair extension service								
Attachment method 1 – full head			Attachment method 2 – partial head			Removal		
1			1			1		
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	2	3	1	2	3			
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1			1					
1			1			1		
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	2	3	1	2	3			
1			1					
1			1					

Continues on next page



Try a razor with extension work; blending the extensions with the natural hair is essential for natural results.

- 11 Use suitable tension throughout the service
- 12 Monitor and make adjustments throughout the service
- 13 Provide hair extensions to the satisfaction of the client
- 14 Remove hair extensions following manufacturer's instructions
- 15 Follow safe and hygienic working practices
- 16 Provide suitable aftercare advice *

Totals

Grade

Candidate signature and date

Assessor signature and date

Hair extension service								
Plaiting			Bonding			Removal		
1			1					
1			1					
1			1					
						1		
1			1			1		
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

Image courtesy of Additional Lengths



Ensure you recommend the correct aftercare products to maintain the added hair.

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Do create multi-tonal results and have fun mixing different tones and depths to clients' hair.

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 Example: uses open and closed questions	Good consultation Examples: uses open and closed questions, visual aids, is aware of own body language	Thorough consultation Examples: uses open and closed questions, uses good visual aids, uses body language effectively, repeats instructions clearly to gain confirmation
3 Evaluate the hair and scalp for suitability of hair extensions	Minimal evaluation used Examples: identifies hair growth patterns, hair texture, hair type and attachment, chooses appropriate but not necessarily the best method	Good evaluation with accuracy most of the time Examples: identifies hair growth patterns, hair texture, hair type and negotiates attachment method	Comprehensive evaluation with accuracy throughout Examples: identifies hair growth patterns, hair texture, hair type and attachment method required, direction and fall, quantity of hair to be added and evident damage of hair or scalp
4 Provide clear recommendations based on factors	Recommendations based on some factors Example: if hair extensions can be carried out	Recommendations based on most factors Examples: if hair extensions can/ cannot be carried out, options of different attachment methods, results that can be achieved	Recommendations based on most factors with accuracy Examples: if hair extensions can/ cannot be carried out, options of different attachment methods, results that can be achieved, matches client requirements accurately

Continues on next page

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
7 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 client needs	Excellent communication and behaviour Examples: polite, friendly, positive body language, speaks clearly, respectful to colleagues and clients, listens and responds to client's needs, shows a reassuring and confident manner
8 Prepare the hair in suitable sections allowing the hair to fall into direction required	Limited sectioning affecting fall of hair Examples: sections too large, some sections uneven	Good sectioning most of the time, appropriate hair fall Examples: most sections are neat and follow the line of the style	Effective sectioning that enhanced the hair fall Examples: neat, directional sectioning throughout; gives added personalisation to the style
16 Provide suitable aftercare advice	Basic aftercare advice Example: use of products	Good level of aftercare advice Example: use of products and equipment	Excellent level of advice Examples: Use of products and equipment, maintenance of style and further services

Image courtesy of Balmain



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Less is more! Take into account your client's density of hair; if her hair is fine, add fine to medium pieces, not necessarily over a full head. Scattering the extensions will make them look more natural.

Comment form

Unit 309 Hair extensions

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

Revision tip

A skin test with the products being used, for example the bonding glue, must be carried out on the client to ensure there is no allergy.



Image courtesy of Great Lengths



Image courtesy of Great Lengths