

6002-005/505 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Barbering – Theory Exam

March 2020

Examiner Report

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Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner, it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres to use in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document be referred to when preparing to teach and then again when candidates are preparing to sit examinations for City & Guilds Technical qualifications.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance and 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 the **March 2020** examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, incorrect examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment;

- **6002-005/505 – Level 2 Technical Certificate in Barbering – Theory Exam**

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

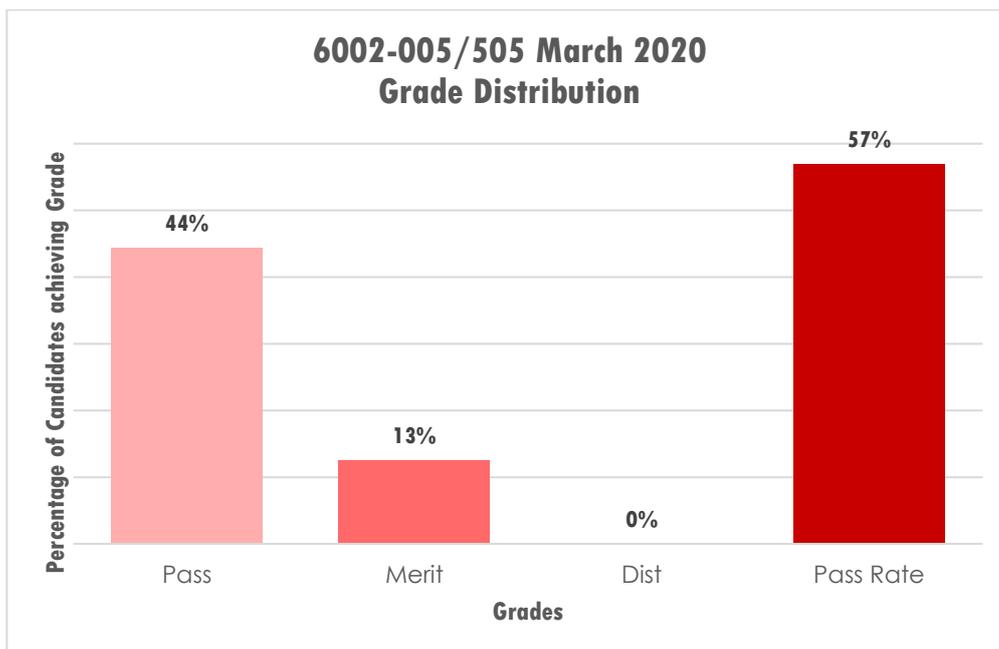
Assessment: **6002-005/505**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	45

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



Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 6002-005/505

Series 1 (March)

Overall, the candidates' performance on the exam was slightly improved in comparison to the March 2019 series. Those who were successful in this exam were able to demonstrate recall of knowledge and understanding across a range of topics on the structure of the hair and skin and safe working practice. Responses showed reasonable understanding of product and tool selection and application and adaptation of cutting techniques. Although there were some inaccuracies on the factors to consider when cutting different hair classification.

Most candidates responded well on questions testing knowledge recall, gaining marks in topic areas such as the skin structure and safety checks, as well as massage and cutting techniques used for a particular services. Candidates also performed well on some questions testing depth of understanding around reasons for repeating the shampoo process, the importance of carrying out safety checks prior to using equipment, tone of voice when communicating with customers and reasons for using tools and equipment during specific services.

Some candidates missed the opportunity to gain marks where they were unable to demonstrate accurate knowledge recall on the maintenance of an open razor and incorrectly referred to disposal of the razor in the sharps box, confusing it with the blade. Some responses identified sterilisation or cleaning off razor, however, candidates should be encouraged to be as accurate as possible and expand on this type of response to specify when it should be done or how frequently.

The cohort overall struggled to show understanding of the uses for a razor with a guard/safety razor. Some responses incorrectly referred to protecting the client's skin or confused the tool for clippers with grades. Higher scoring candidates were generally more accurate in their responses for this topic.

Candidates who did not perform well on technical topics such as beard or hair cutting, as well as drying and finishing techniques, generally provided more limited, or inaccurate responses. These candidates would benefit from spending more time familiarising themselves with the question to ensure they provide responses specific to the main point of the stem. An example of this would be when asked about the benefits of using a specific cutting technique for a beard trim, some responses went off track and explained how to carry out the technique instead of showing understanding on the effects achieved.

Some candidates were unsure of the factors to consider when cutting certain hair classifications, leading to brief and/or incorrect responses. Candidates who scored higher marks on this topic were able to provide more detailed and accurate response with reference to tool selection, tension etc.

For the extended response question, candidates were given a scenario about a client's requirements for a haircut and beard trim, with a few influencing factors to consider during the service.

Candidates achieving marks in Band 1 tended to repeat the scenario and followed on to describe the step-by-step process of the service they would carry out, whereas candidates who achieved marks in Band 2 or 3 provided discussions encompassing the range of factors provided. These candidates gave examples and reasoning of how and why the techniques might need to be adapted. They suggested suitable tools and product with clear links to the scenario. The discussion flowed through the whole service from beginning to the end with accurate technical terminology and clear conclusions on decisions made to meet the client's requirements.

It would be beneficial for candidates to improve their exam technique by going over the question in detail, to ensure the response provided shows full understanding of the main requirements of the stem. Candidates should also ensure they provide a response tailored to the command verb prescribed. Questions testing understanding require a response which is supported with justifications and reasoning to show their depth of understanding on the topic area. This also applies to the ERQ where candidates need to focus on the key factors given in the scenario and reason their choices with justifications and examples, and finish off with a conclusion.

Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/hairdressing/hairdressing/6002-hairdressing-and-barbering#tab=documents>