



# **6002-31 Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Hairdressing (540)**

**2025**

## **Qualification Report**

**2.0**

Version and date	Change detail	Section
Version 2.0	Qualification achievement data for Distinction* (and above) updated	Qualification grade distribution

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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.

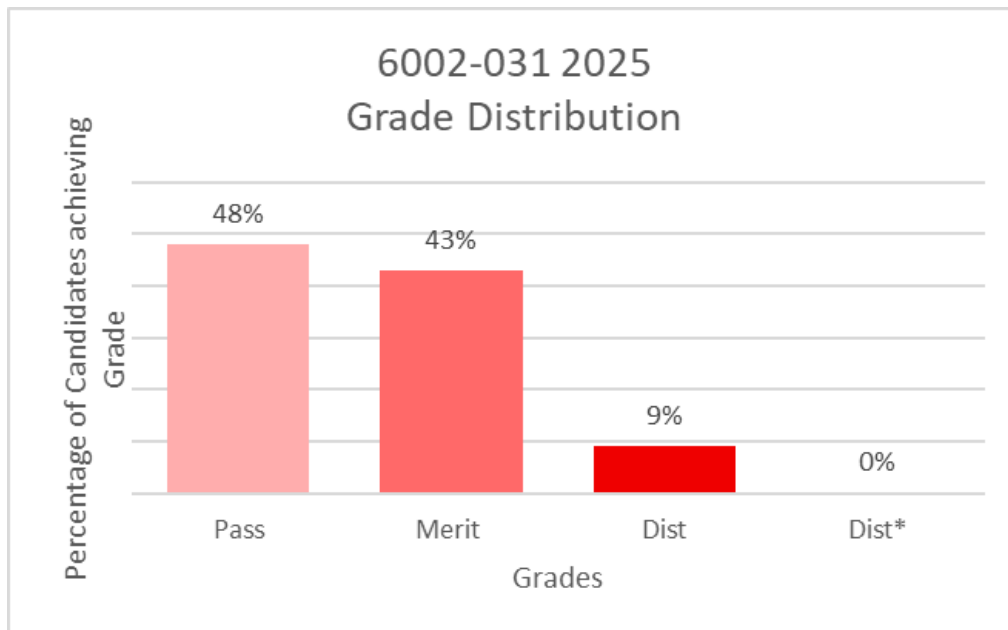
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2025 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments:

- 6002-532 Level 3 Hairdressing – Theory exam
  - March 2025 (Spring)
  - June 2025 (Summer)
- 6002-033 Level 3 Hairdressing – Synoptic Assignment

# Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



This data is based on the distribution as of 14/08/2025.

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

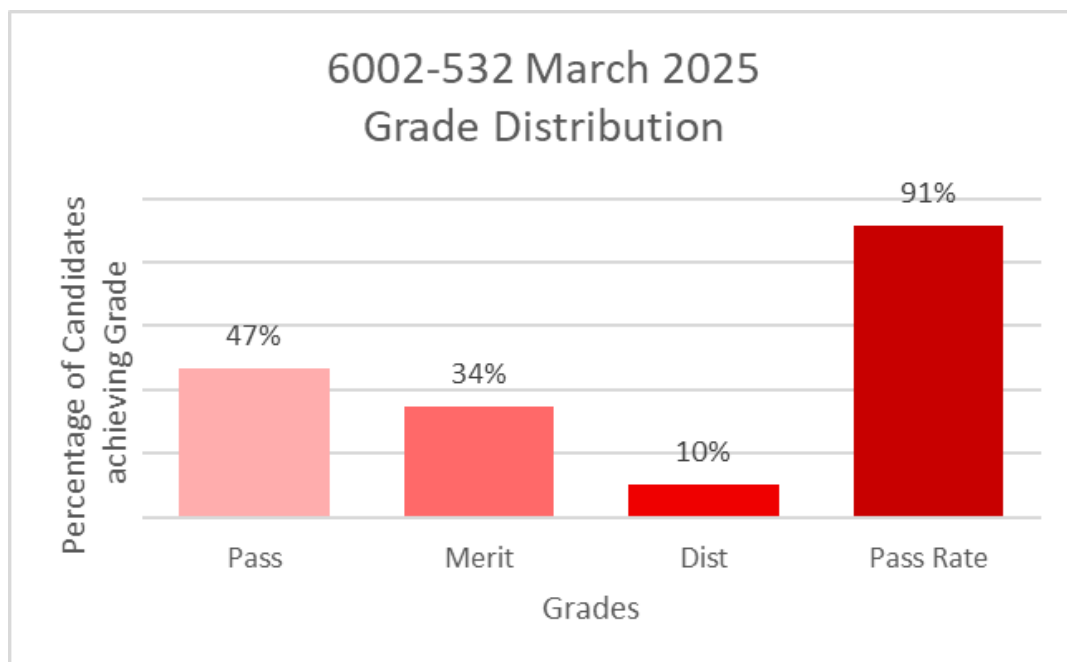
Assessment: 6002-532

Series: March 2025 (Spring)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>80</b>
Pass mark	30
Merit mark	43
Distinction mark	56

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



Assessment: 6002-532  
Series: June 2025 (Summer)

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>80</b>
Pass mark	30
Merit mark	43
Distinction mark	56

Data and commentary for this assessment have been omitted by City & Guilds due to a very low number of candidate submissions.

# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 6002-532 Level 3 Hairdressing – Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2025

The examination paper was comparable to previous series with a similar spread of health & safety, scientific principles and scenario-based questions. With this series being smaller than previous spring series. The level of challenge across colour and cutting themes were also deemed comparable to previous papers. It was evident that the cohort were reasonably well prepared as they attempted to answer most questions with accurate knowledge shown on both recall and understanding across a variety of topics. However, there were some gaps evident within some of the candidates' knowledge across the cohort.

Most candidates showed good recall of knowledge around the hair's growth cycle and cutting, styling and colouring techniques. Questions around sustainability were answered well with most candidates showing a good breadth of knowledge on how salon practices can improve the environment. The higher scoring candidates within the cohort were able to access the higher marks due to their ability to provide a wider breadth of response.

A particular area of weakness included legislation and regulation-based questions. Lower scoring candidates often missed the opportunity to gain marks as they recalled facts with limited expansion compared to higher scoring candidates who expanded further with their responses. however they often were unable to show sufficient depth on how choices impact results to achieve the full marks available to them. but some candidates did struggle with the differences between specific brushing techniques and styling and finishing products whilst lower scoring candidates did tend to be repetitive in their responses.

In the Extended Response Question (ERQ), all candidates covered both the cut and colour aspects of the scenario and the range of test requirements well. Most candidates were able to provide a good explanation on how the factors provided around hair growth patterns would affect the cutting elements of the service required, with the consultation process also well considered by the cohort. Candidates who reached the higher band of marks were able to show a deeper understanding by referring to the hair type, characteristics, and tests, making further considerations on how they would need to adapt the service. Some opportunities to gain higher marks were limited where candidates focused heavily on the consultation aspect of the scenario and provided more limited responses to the service element.

In future, all aspects of the service provided in the Extended Response Question need to be considered methodically to gain a range of marks, this would support lower achieving candidates to be less repetitive in their responses, ensuring clear and concise information is given for the different applications and services. In general, candidates need to ensure that all questions are attempted ensuring that they remain focused, referring back to the stem whilst responding. This would allow the candidates to stay on track whilst fully meeting the requirements of the questions and scenarios being asked.

**Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technicals 'Exam Guides' available here:**  
[6002-032 technicals exam document 2018 v1-3-pdf.ashx](https://www.cityandguilds.com/~/media/2018/03/6002-032_technicals_exam_document_2018_v1-3-pdf.ashx)

# Synoptic Assignment

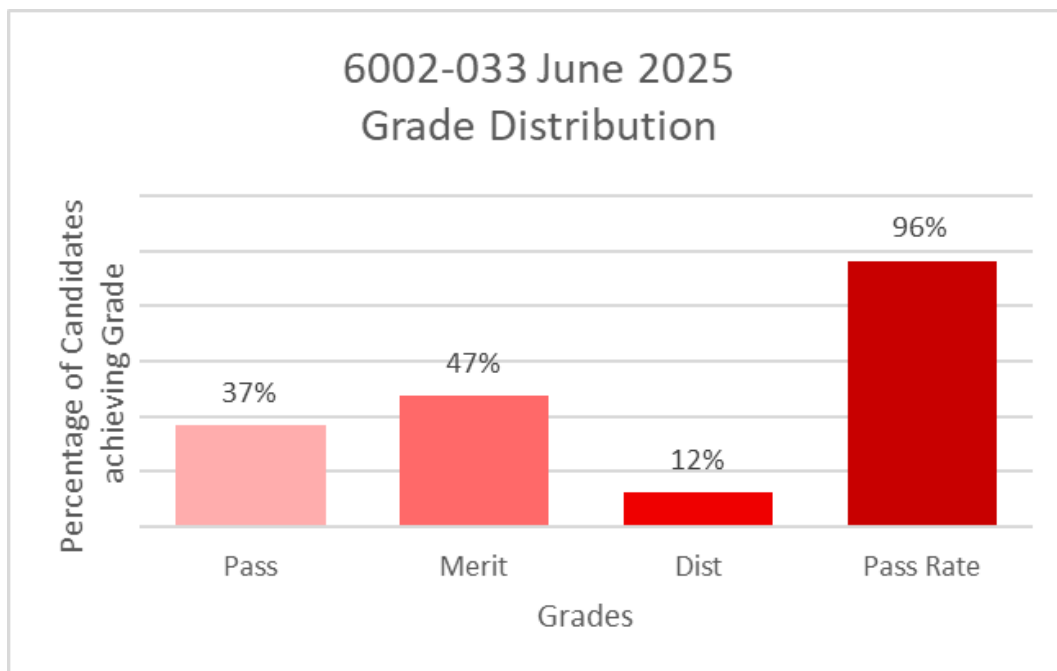
## Grade Boundaries

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

Assessment: 6002-033  
Series: 2025

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	38
Distinction mark	48

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



## **Principal Moderator Commentary**

The synoptic assignment brief is divided into three tasks. Task 1 is for the candidates to plan and agree services including consultation and identify any necessary tests required prior to the synoptic practical. Task 2 requires the candidate to carry out a total restyle that alters the length, shape, and style of the hair, including personalisation through a variety of different cutting techniques. Creative colour which should also include an element of colour correction for this level, style and creatively dressing long hair as the final part of the synoptic. For task 3, the candidates need to complete an evaluation of all services carried out.

Generally, the low scoring candidates provided limited evidence and were unable to deal with more complex problem solving. Most centres recorded this well on the PO forms provided but this didn't always translate onto the CRF forms which meant some marks awarded were in the incorrect band. This was prevalent in the higher scoring candidate's evidence with comments recorded not always matching the evidence provided.

In contrast candidates who achieved marks in the higher bands provided links to client requirements and made clear reference to techniques, and products being provided. They evidenced their depth of understanding, demonstrating clear links from the theory to the practical element.

For the restyle and finish element of the assessment, some candidates missed out key requirements of the brief when only removing length but not altering the shape or style as required in the assessment. Centres need to ensure they record instances of candidates not meeting the brief and take this into consideration when awarding marks across the AOs.

### **Task 1**

Lower scoring candidates covered the basic requirements for consultations but lacked depth and breadth, as they did not develop their planning and instead listed plans providing limited expansion. These candidates focused on tests, face shapes, type and texture of hair, but showed no reasoning on why the information would be important for the services. Most candidates used images as required in this task which aided the higher-level candidates, allowing them to expand upon their consultation information and processes which showed logical reasoning and thoughtful decision making allowing for clear interpretation.

### **Task 2**

Most candidates showed a good level of skill over one of the three services required in the synoptic assignment which allowed them to access marks across all of the AOs. The higher scoring candidates could adapt and rise to the challenge at times exceeding expectations, whilst candidates in the lower scoring bands could not always implement their plans from task one which limited their access to further marks in the middle and top of the AO bands. The candidates still need to consider models and the suitability of them for the services being carried out.

### **Task 3**

For the evaluations, candidates are still focusing on what went well and methods. The candidates still need to consider their own strengths and weaknesses and what could be achieved if any of the services were carried out differently to how they'd planned. The candidates need to be able to critically evaluate their work which some of the higher scoring candidates did achieve.

## **Candidates' performance against each AO – strengths and weaknesses**

### **AO1 – Recall of knowledge**

This AO covers the candidate's ability to work safely within the salon in a clean and tidy manner, with the candidate being aware of legislation and how to follow manufacturer's instructions that could impact the safety of others and themselves within the salon. Most candidates considered these elements and those that didn't were not able to access the marks in the middle and top AOs.

### **AO2 – Understanding**

Some candidates lacked the ability to link theory to the practical, the higher scoring candidates could interpret the different tests and adjust their services, accordingly, showing clear consideration of the factors that could affect services showing their concepts and theories confidently in the decisions made. Where some candidates were let down by models on the day of the assignment the candidates in the lower bands could not change the styles selected in task one and could not always meet the client's expectations as they couldn't adapt the services. However, the higher scoring candidates did rise to the challenge by explaining the decisions made and how they dealt with the situation with logical reasoning. Centres reflected upon this well on the PO forms.

### **AO3 - Application of practical/technical skills.**

The lower scoring candidates creative colour element showed safer options for colour application and the services carried out were basic. Most candidates are still not meeting the brief for the restyle, cutting 5-6 inches of the hair's length generally, which doesn't alter the shape of the style which is a requirement of the assignment.

Most candidates showed that they could work in a methodical manner, with the majority completing the practical element within the given timeframe. Most of the candidates were professional and showed good communication skills and could follow the required legislations. Some of the lower scoring candidates didn't always personalise the service for each client however this is something the higher scoring candidates did well.

### **AO4- Bringing it all together**

The candidates could show effective time management skills, showing good accuracy, however the lower scoring candidates did lack the ability to deal with more complex problems as they arose, meaning the finished looks did not always demonstrate balance or precision. This was also evidence in task three evaluation where some candidates lacked reflection of the services carried out and how these could be amended to improve. The centres need to consider all three tasks within the AO4 to ensure a holistic approach is taken when justifying the correct band.

### **AO5 - Attention to detail**

The candidates who achieved higher marks showed consistent effort to achieve the desired result for each of the services carried out however some candidates lacked the consistency within some areas of the services. All candidates are reminded to check the finished balance of all services and to think further about personalising the finished looks, taking into consideration environmental factors.

## Examples of best practice

- Best practice was observed where photographic evidence was uploaded in one document, either PowerPoint or Word, allowing for ease of access and assisting in the moderation process.
- The centres used the City & Guilds template forms provided.
- All information was uploaded to the portal by the required deadlines.
- Most centres ensured that standardisation activities had taken place between more than one marker. Standardisation can prevent under-marking or over-marking, which can lead to adjustments being made at the national moderation.
- Centres have fully prepared the candidates and themselves for the synoptic assignment by carrying out mock assignments.