



6003-024/524 – Level 2 Nail Treatments

Examination Series - March 2018

Chief Examiner Report

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 2018 examination series. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

The document provides commentary on the following assessments;
6003-024/524 Level 2 Nail Treatments

Theory Exam – March 2018

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	40

Chief Examiner Commentary

6003-024/524 Level 2 Nail Treatments - Theory Exam

This was the first cohort to sit the 6003-024/524 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Nail Treatments-Theory exam. It should be noted that future exams will sample different topics and learning outcomes from the qualification, so this commentary relates to the March 2018 examination only.

Overall the paper enabled candidates to be stretched and challenged at a good Level 2 standard. Candidates that were successful in this examination showed that they could use industry specific terminology, and had sufficient knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently when carrying out nail treatments. There was a range of total marks achieved for this question paper.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates are encouraged to spend time reading and re-reading the questions before attempting to answer. 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.

Candidates were struggling with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner; their responses lacked depth and breadth. They often missed opportunities to gain additional marks as they provided limited responses which inadequately demonstrated understanding when the question required them to explain. Candidates would benefit from referring to the '*Guide to Examination*' document which has been produced for centres who offer **City & Guilds Level 2 Technical Certificate in Nail Treatments**. It has been produced to support the preparation of candidates to take the examination.

Overall there was a poor understanding demonstrated of anatomy and physiology. This was reflected in their responses for the physical effects of massage on the blood and lymph circulatory system.

Many candidates had basic knowledge of the benefits of using paraffin wax but were unable to link the explanation as to how these benefits occur.

Many candidates gained marks for responses to questions relating to unit 232 Introduction to Work in the Nail Industry. Their responses showed some understanding of the use of open and

closed questioning techniques when establishing client needs, however, missed confirming their understanding of how to close a sale.

Overall, candidates had a basic knowledge of the chemical components within nails systems, most candidates only stated one or two of the most commonly used and familiar components - monomer and polymer, but were unable to identify other chemicals including Benzyl Peroxide and Photo Initiators.

Most candidates showed a lack of understanding when questioned on the curing process of a gel system as the correct terminology wasn't always used with explanation missing words out such as Polymerisation.

Most candidates showed a lack of understanding when being questioned on the process of rebalancing nail enhancements. Rather than providing a detailed explanation to the rebalancing process, many answered incorrectly by recommending removal, which wasn't what the questioned asked. Other candidates could only provide one or two statements, missing the opportunity to gain higher marks by providing a linked explanation.

Candidates struggled with the explanation of nail conditions, either misunderstanding the condition and therefore answering incorrectly, or were only able to provide one or two statements. To achieve full marks, candidates needed to show a more in-depth level of knowledge of conditions and provide the explanations.

Candidates also seemed to misunderstand the differences between conditions which prevent and restrict nail treatments, which highlights that candidates need to read and re-read the question before answering.

Extended response question

The extended response question is intended to draw on knowledge from across the qualification. A range of marks were achieved on the extended response question however, some candidates missed the opportunity to gain marks in the top band. Marks were lost where candidates devised a basic service plans, in most cases, only relating to one service area with limited justifications. There was limited or no references to nail art, timings or budget. Where additional services were recommended candidates made inaccurate and illogical justifications, making their suggestions fit the scenario rather than advising on service options accurately.

Aftercare advice tended to be basic, although reference was made to retail opportunities. Candidates were expected to consider all aspects of the service, taking into account and the client's needs with justifications around their recommendations.

Overall, candidates did not score high marks in the extended response questions. The ability to compare, justify, discuss and evaluate is the quality which receives the greatest marks.