

# 6003-22 Level 2 Technical Certificate in Nail Treatments

2018

**Qualification Report**

# Contents

Introduction.....	3
Qualification Grade Distribution .....	4
Theory Exam .....	5
Grade Boundaries.....	5
Chief Examiner Commentary.....	7
Synoptic Assignment.....	11
Grade Boundaries.....	11
Principal Moderator Commentary .....	12

# 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 2018 academic year. It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose.

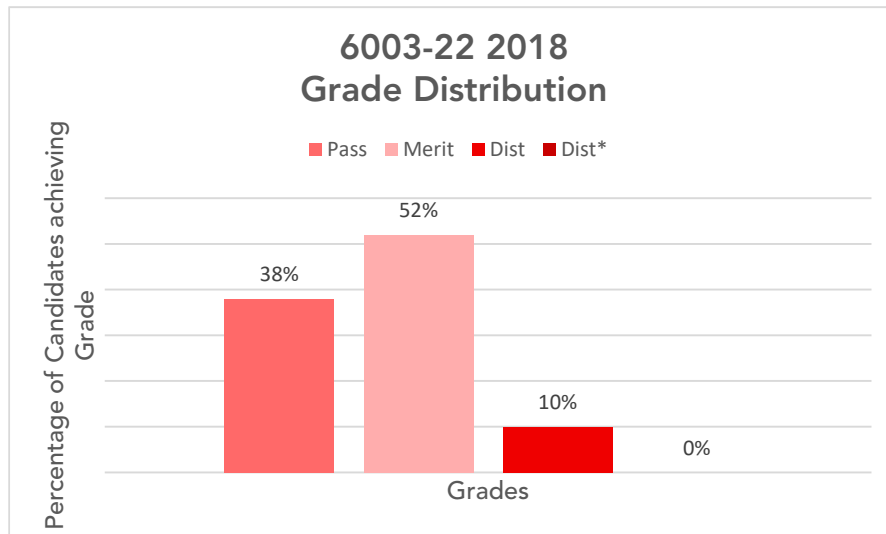
The document provides commentary on the following assessments;

- 6003-024/524 Level 2 Nail Treatments – Theory exam
  - March 2018
  - May 2018
- 6003-025 Level 2 Nail Treatments – Synoptic Assignment

# Qualification Grade Distribution

The grade distribution for this qualification is shown below;

Graph will be inserted here



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

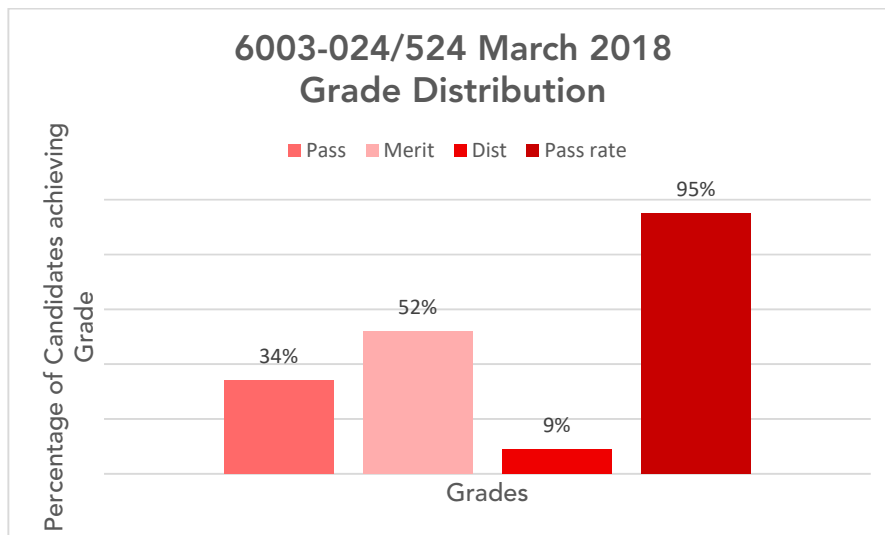
Assessment: 6003-024/524

Series: March 2018

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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	27
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	38

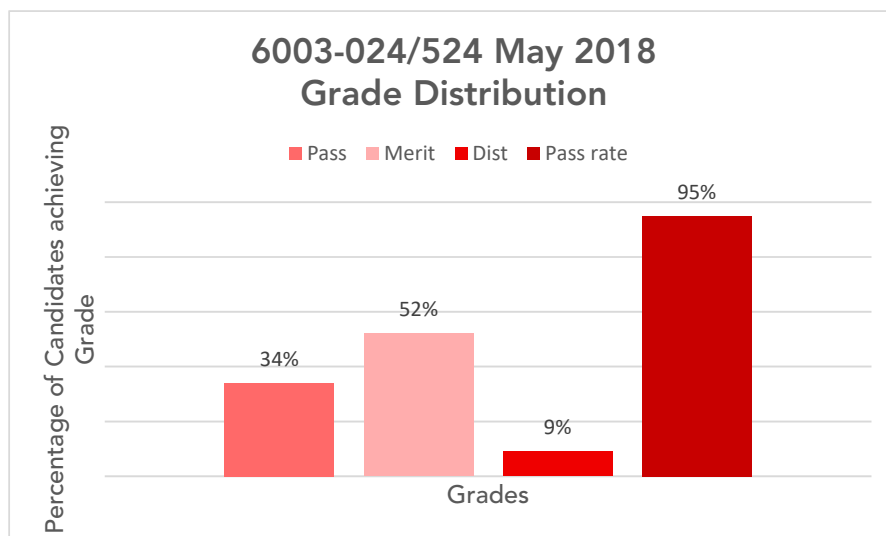
The graph below shows the distributions of grades and pass rate for this assessment;



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

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	27
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	38

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



# Chief Examiner Commentary

## 6003-024/524 Level 2 Nail Treatments - Theory exam

### Series 1 – March 2018

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 nail 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.



## Series 2 – May 2018

The paper performed well and was of a standard both clearly at the appropriate level and similar in content, range and difficulty to the paper taken in March 2018. The language was at the appropriate level and there should have been no problems for the candidates in understanding the questions. There was a broad range of total marks achieved for this question paper which shows that the paper differentiated across candidates.

This was the second cohort to sit the 6003-024/524 Level 2 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 May 2018 examination only.

Overall the paper provided sufficient stretch and challenge at this level and sampled across the entire qualification. Candidates that were successful in this examination demonstrated that they could apply industry specific terminology correctly, solve non-routine problems and show sufficient knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently when carrying out nail treatments.

The majority of candidates demonstrated a good knowledge of skin functions, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and the removal process of gel polish, which resulted in higher marks being achieved.

Similar to March, the short state, describe questions were answered better than the questions that required a detailed explanation and justification. Candidates often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner; their responses often lacked depth and breadth. They sometimes missed opportunities to gain additional marks as they provided limited responses which inadequately demonstrated understanding when the question required them to explain.

The majority of candidates also struggled with anatomy and physiology questions that required a deeper level of understanding. This was reflected in their responses for how internal factors such as blood flow and diet affect the growth of the natural nail. Candidates could only provide one or two basic identification points, missing the opportunity to gain higher marks by providing follow-on explanations.

Responses were also limited where candidates were asked to explain the reasons why tips could crack during application, the causes of brittle nails, as well as when asked to explain the differences between nail enhancement systems. Many candidates responded with identification points only, missing the opportunity to gain higher marks by providing follow-on explanations.

Some responses when asked to state natural nail types stated nail conditions such as split and discoloration instead of nail types which indicated candidates may not have read and fully understood the question posed.

Many candidates demonstrated a poor understanding of risk assessment in a nail salon, responding with one or two basic identification points such as stating it allows potential risks to be identified and it is a legal requirement under the Health and Safety Act missing the opportunity to gain higher marks by providing follow-on explanations..

### **Extended response question**

A range of marks were achieved on the extended response question, however, overall, candidates tended to gain marks within band 2 with only some candidates accessing the higher marks in band 3. Many candidates did not provide recommendations within their responses therefore, they were unable to access higher marks. Treatment and service sequences had some

inconsistencies and there were some candidates' responses that included illogical application processes i.e. hot oil manicure followed by a Gel Polish or enhancement service.

Marks were lost where candidates devised a service plan, but did not fully consider budget, timings and nail art options. Most candidates detailed future service needs but did not advise on contra-actions. Overall, candidates did take into account a complete plan that takes all considerations of the service into account and the client's needs with some justifications around their recommendations. The ability to compare, justify, discuss and evaluate is the quality, which will receive the greatest marks.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. 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, as well as the need to read each question carefully and to respond clearly to the question given in the depth required.

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

[https://cdn.cityandguilds.com/ProductDocuments/Beauty\\_and\\_Complementary\\_Therapies/Beauty/6003/6003\\_Level%202/Assessment\\_Materials/6003-22%20Technical\\_exam\\_document\\_2018\\_v1-0.pdf](https://cdn.cityandguilds.com/ProductDocuments/Beauty_and_Complementary_Therapies/Beauty/6003/6003_Level%202/Assessment_Materials/6003-22%20Technical_exam_document_2018_v1-0.pdf)

# Synoptic Assignment

## Grade Boundaries

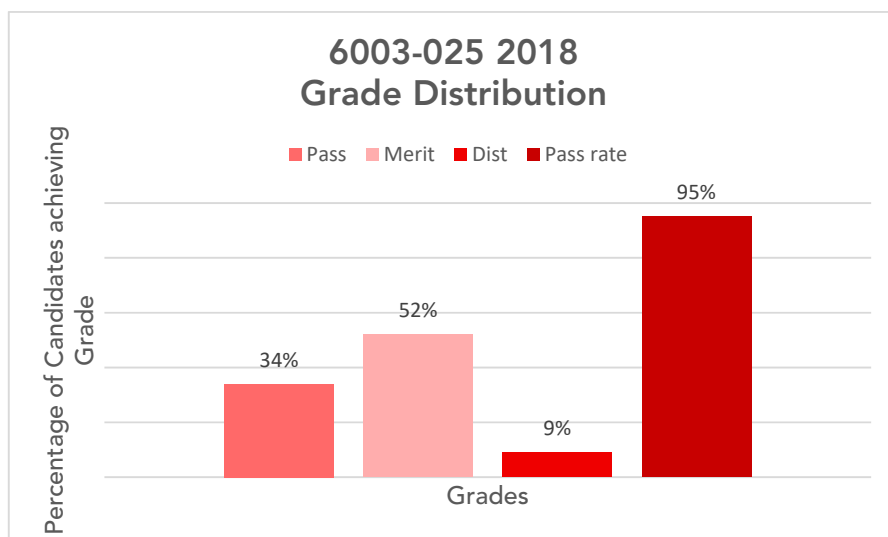
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel;

Assessment: 6003-025

Series: 2018

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	25
Merit mark	35
Distinction mark	46

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



## Principal Moderator Commentary

The assignment brief and tasks provided were sufficient to explain the areas in which the candidate should research and the areas on which they should report, comment and perform various practical tasks. The outcomes of the set tasks varied from excellent to poor and the marks awarded by the centres, and then sometimes altered by the moderators, reflected this.

Higher achieving candidates showed consistency throughout the synoptic assessment and this was reflected in marks allocated across the assessment objectives. Higher level candidates tended to work fluently, meeting the needs of the clients and planning the nail services in the most appropriate order. Those in the lower band tended to show hesitation and the nail services carried out were not always the most appropriate to meet the needs of the client. Candidates were better at recalling AO1 information rather than providing the Understanding AO2.

Within task 1, candidates showed good amalgamation of research for the creative Look Book activity although referencing was not used. Most candidates included images of their own work but often failed to include before and after pictures. The promotional leaflet was presented well, however attention to detail was lost due to missing out nail services from across the range and as well as business details.

Within task 2, candidates demonstrated some evidence when linking the treatment plan of individual clients to their applications. Explanations were clear and easy to understand but lacked some depth and connections. The use of terminology was generally basic, missing opportunities to refer to anatomy and physiology as well as skin and nail conditions. Any terminology used mainly referred to massaging techniques. Little reference was made to chemical processes.

Within task 2, some candidates used an opaque powder instead of clear and translucent powder, therefore didn't fully meet the assignment criteria. Candidates that did use opaque did so without reasoned links to the needs of the client and the application mainly lacked in colour consistency.

Inconsistencies were generally present across the set of nails with tip application and blending techniques, the overall nail structure and the balance of French. In most cases the Gel Polish application was applied well, however a common theme was that when combined with a manicure the procedure was often out of sequence for an overlay system.

AO1- The majority of candidates achieved between mark band 2 and 3 demonstrating a good knowledge of Health and Safety, legislation and hygiene practices which was evidenced through the tutor feedback on Observation Performance Forms. Some centres included verbal questioning and recorded the answers to draw out additional depth of candidate's knowledge. Some candidates referenced health, hygiene and working practices in their evaluation task.

AO2 - Most candidates provided some understanding within task 2. To gain more marks candidates need to demonstrate their understanding with more explanations, justifications and depth. This would have provided stronger evidence that the candidates understand concepts rather than only able to recall knowledge. Higher scoring candidates understood the consultation process used to determine a treatment plan and provided sound reasons for the use of products, techniques and adaptations.

AO3 – Most candidates demonstrated that this was their strongest area and many achieved marks in band 2 and 3, carrying out high quality nail services with confidence and demonstrating professionalism throughout. The skill level had some precision and demonstrated a range of

techniques at varying levels. The majority of candidates demonstrated a good level of communication and professionalism which was outlined in the tutor notes.

Lower scoring candidates generally followed Health and Safety and displayed a low level of practical ability by showing a lack of creativity and originality, adequate dexterity and fluidity of techniques and missing the opportunity to record details accurately on the client consultation form and treatment plans. Limited skills were particularly evident within nail design and art applications, with lower scoring candidates only applying art to two nails showing limited creativity and imagination.

Higher scoring candidates provided advice and recommendations, gaining additional marks by evidencing clear attempts to promote products and services with detailed aftercare advice.

AO4 – Most candidates gained marks in band 1 to the lower end of band 2. Although the majority of candidates could analyse, reflect and evaluate with some success, this wasn't always evident as the lower scoring candidates' did not provide justifications of choices made and minimal consideration was given to factors likely to affect the nails service such as client preference and lifestyle. Whereas the high scoring candidates' provided justifications for choices, took into consideration nail types, shapes and client lifestyle in order to select suitable products and techniques.

AO5 – Performance on the attention to detail within task 3 was mixed across the centres. The high scoring candidates who gained high marks within AO3 and AO4 also gained similar marks within this area. The lower scoring candidates showed many inaccurate application techniques lacking the precision and attention to detail required which resulted in a poor performance. Nails were excessively thick, out of balance and uneven, had damage to surrounding skin, product on the skin and the art work was basic and untidy. The higher scoring candidates demonstrated better attention to detail in their application and the finishing of the nail enhancements. Nails had more structure although either flat or the apex located in the wrong place, application was neater around the cuticles, sidewalls and french smile lines were crisp.

### **Best Practice**

Tutors made justifications and comments which were appropriate, applicable to the marking bands and marks were aligned with the quality of work presented. This included both the written notes taken from the assessment process of each task and a typed version encompassing all information across the ranges. Although not seen across all centres, some included photographic evidence of the candidates working areas when setting up within their candidate record forms, to support comments made about health and safety.

On several occasions, some centres used the incorrect CRF forms for candidates making the marks awarded inaccurate. Effective time management was noted by tutors for most candidates, however for some candidates tasks were not completed in the time allocated.

The asking of additional questions which were fully evidenced by some centres gave candidates an opportunity to gain additional marks in the knowledge and understanding AO's. Although this was not seen across all centres.

### **Feedback on uploading images**

Images in most cases met the assignment requirements including the images taken throughout the service, clarity/distance, variety of angles of the finished nails for task 2, and the colour of images.

Centres overall uploaded candidate's images, Look Book and Business Plan into single documents i.e Word document or PDF, centres are encouraged to follow this practice. Some images were too small with more than one applied to a page making evidence not as easy to decipher. All files need to be compressed into a relevant and coherent order, instead of one file or document for each piece of evidence and images should be clearly identifiable.