

# 6003-22 Level 2 Technical certificate in Nail Treatments

2019

**Qualification Report**

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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.

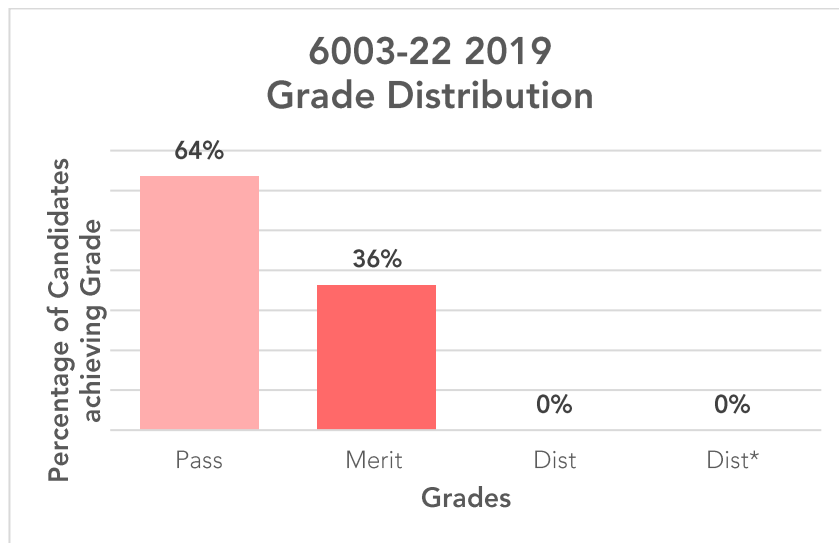
This report provides general commentary on candidate performance in both the synoptic assignment and theory exam. It highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat assessments in the 2019 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 2019
  - June 2019
- 6003-025 Level 2 Nail treatments – Synoptic Assignment

# Qualification Grade Distribution

The approximate grade distribution for this qualification is shown below:



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

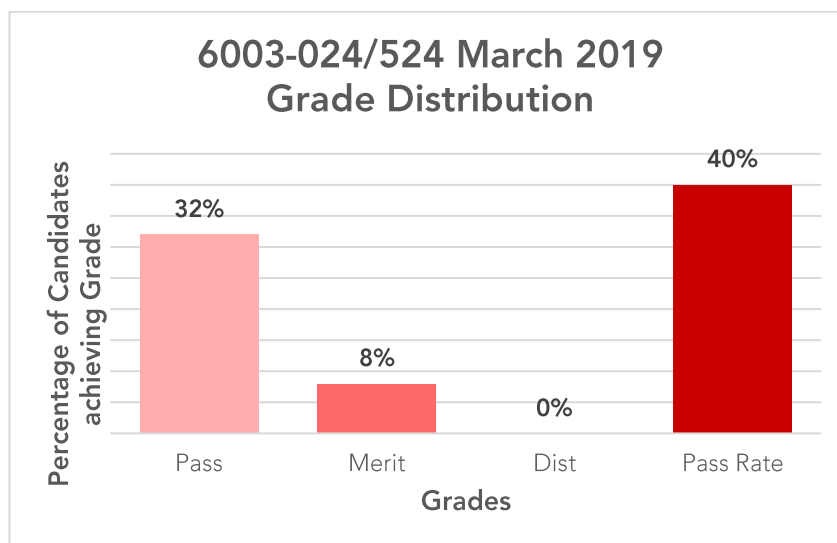
## Grade Boundaries

Assessment: 6003-024/524  
Series: March 2019

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	34
Distinction mark	42

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

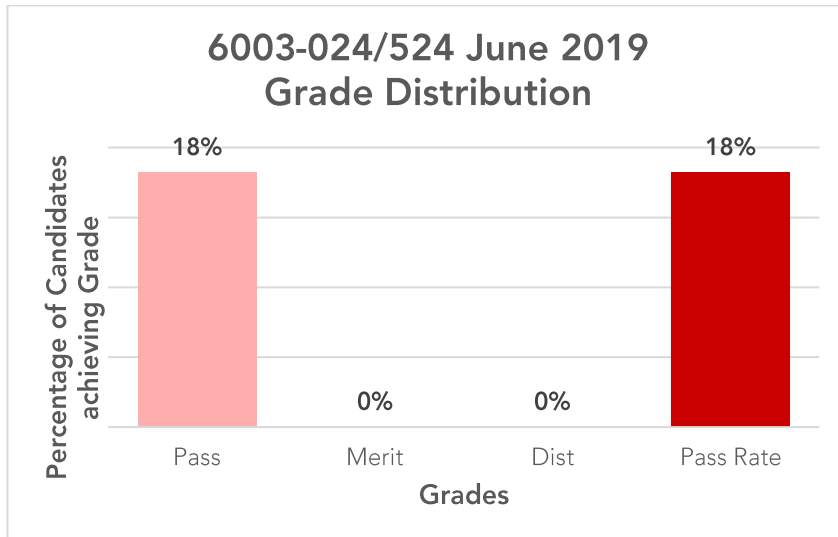


Assessment: 6003-024/524  
Series: June 2019

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	34
Distinction mark	42

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



# Chief Examiner Commentary

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

### Series 1 – March 2019

This was the second 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, this commentary relates to the March 2019 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 enough knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently when carrying out nail treatments. There was a broad range of total marks achieved for this question paper which shows that the paper differentiated across candidates.

Overall, candidates demonstrated a good knowledge and were able to achieve the majority of marks on topics related to the skin and nail structure, personal hygiene and natural nail preparation processes.

Like the previous year, 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.

Responses were limited where candidates were asked to explain the benefits of massage techniques. Many candidates responded with identification points rather than fully explaining the impact of the massage and therefore missed the opportunity to access the full range of marks available.

Many responses showed some confusion of the differences between nail conditions, diseases and disorders which prevent nail treatments, which highlighted a lack of knowledge in these areas.

Most candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding of the influencing factors that affect a manicure. Many responded incorrectly by describing manicure processes and aftercare advice rather than providing a detailed explanation of the areas to be considered. This meant that candidates missed the opportunity to gain high marks where they did not cover the condition and provide the explanations. A similar trend was seen where candidates were unable to explain the differences in the different chemical ingredients used in nails products. Some responses gave incorrect information about the chemicals, or confused the properties and processes of different ingredients.

### **Extended response question**

A range of marks were achieved on the extended response question, however, overall, candidates tended to gain marks within band 1 and 2 with only some candidates accessing the higher marks in band 3. Many candidates did not provide recommendations or discuss options within their responses and were therefore unable to access higher marks.

Treatments options discussed showed some inconsistencies and there were some responses that did not always relate back to the scenario provided. Many responses were not in a logical order and gave inaccurate information.

Most candidates detailed future services but marks were lost where candidates did not fully consider budget, timings nail art options, or advise on potential contra-actions.

Higher achieving candidates provided a well-structured service plan which acknowledged all areas within the scenario, discussed service options and provided in-depth aftercare and homecare advice.

To access higher marks in future series, candidates need to compare, justify, discuss and evaluate treatments and service options.

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%20Technicals\\_exam\\_document\\_2018\\_v1-0.pdf](https://cdn.cityandguilds.com/ProductDocuments/Beauty_and_Complementary_Therapies/Beauty/6003/6003_Level%202/Assessment_Materials/6003-22%20Technicals_exam_document_2018_v1-0.pdf)



## Series 2 – June 2019

This was the fourth 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 June 2019 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 enough knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently when carrying out nail treatments. There was a broad range of total marks achieved for this question paper which shows that the paper differentiated across candidates.

Overall, candidates demonstrated a good knowledge and were able to achieve the majority of marks on topics related tools used within nail services and the uses of base and top coats.

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.

The majority of candidates continue to struggle with anatomy and physiology questions even those which do not require the candidate to provide a deeper level of understanding. This was reflected in their responses when identifying bones of the arm and categories of joints. Candidates could only provide one or two basic identification points.

Responses were limited where candidates were asked questions around tip application techniques contra-actions to nail services as well communication methods. Many candidates responded with identification points rather than fully explaining, missing the opportunity to gain higher marks by providing follow-on explanations.

Many responses were brief or incomplete when asked to identify areas to visually check during consultation as candidates did not specify the condition, type or shape of the nails and skin.

Many candidates demonstrated a poor knowledge of the causes of an exothermic reaction and reasons for gel polish peeling, responding with incorrect nail preparation techniques and curing times.

### **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 or discuss options within their responses and were therefore unable to access higher marks.

Treatment and service sequences discussed showed some inconsistencies and there were some candidates' responses that included illogical application processes i.e. luxury manicure services 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. To access higher marks in future series, candidates need to compare, justify, discuss and evaluate treatments and service options.

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

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# Synoptic Assignment

## Grade Boundaries

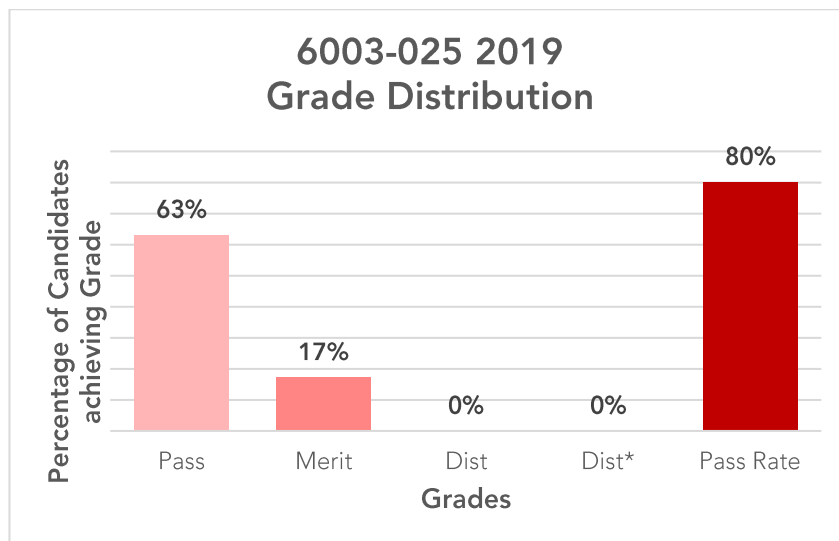
Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel:

Assessment: 6003-025

Series: 2019

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

The graph below shows the approximate 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 scoring candidates showed consistency throughout the synoptic assessment and this was reflected in marks allocated across the assessment objectives. Higher scoring candidates tended to work fluently, meeting the needs of the clients and planning the nail services in the most appropriate order. Lower scoring candidates 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.

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.

### Breakdown of performance against each AO - Strengths and weaknesses

#### AO1- Recall of knowledge

The majority of candidates achieved marks in 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. Higher achieving candidates referenced health and safety, hygiene and working practices in their treatment plans and the evaluation task. Some additional legislation such as equality and diversity was also seen documented.

#### AO2- Understanding of concepts theories and processes

Most candidates demonstrated some depth of understanding within task 2. 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. Lower scoring candidates missed opportunities to gain higher marks through a lack of understanding of using different techniques to suit individual client needs. They tended to make a list of procedures (step by step) with all treatments observed being generally the same across candidates within centres.

Within task 2, candidates demonstrated some understanding when linking the treatment plan of individual clients to their applications. Low scoring candidates showed limited use of correct terminology missing opportunities to refer to anatomy and physiology, skin and nail conditions, shapes and types. The majority of candidates also demonstrated a lack of understanding of chemical processes.

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

Most candidates demonstrated that this was their strongest area and many achieved marks in band 2 and 3, by carrying out high quality nail services with confidence and demonstrating professionalism throughout. Their skill level showed 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 displayed a basic 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.

Higher scoring candidates showed an understanding of balance between the length of the enhancement and the application of French polish to maintain a balanced look.

Adequate aftercare advice and recommendation were provided by the majority of candidates with higher scoring candidates gained additional marks by evidencing clear attempt to promote products and services with detailed aftercare advice.

#### **AO4- Bringing it all together coherence of the whole subject**

Most candidates gained mid-range marks in band 2. Most candidates showed better amalgamation of research for the creative Look Book activity although did not include adequate referencing of work. The majority of candidates included images of their own work but often failed to include before and after pictures.

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.

Effective time management was noted by tutors for most candidates, however for some tasks were not completed in time.

#### **AO5- Attending to detail/ perfecting**

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 out of balance and uneven, product on the skin and the artwork were 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 the apex placement was inconsistent, the application was neater around the cuticle and sidewalls and the French smile lines were crisp.

#### **Examples of 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.