

**6003-020/520 – Level 2**

# **Beauty Therapy – Theory Exam**

**March 2020**

## **Examiner Report**

# Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – March 2020 .....	4
Grade Boundaries and distribution.....	4
Chief Examiner Commentary.....	5

# 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;  
**6003-020/520 – Level 2 Beauty Therapy – Theory Exam.**

# Theory Exam – March 2020

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

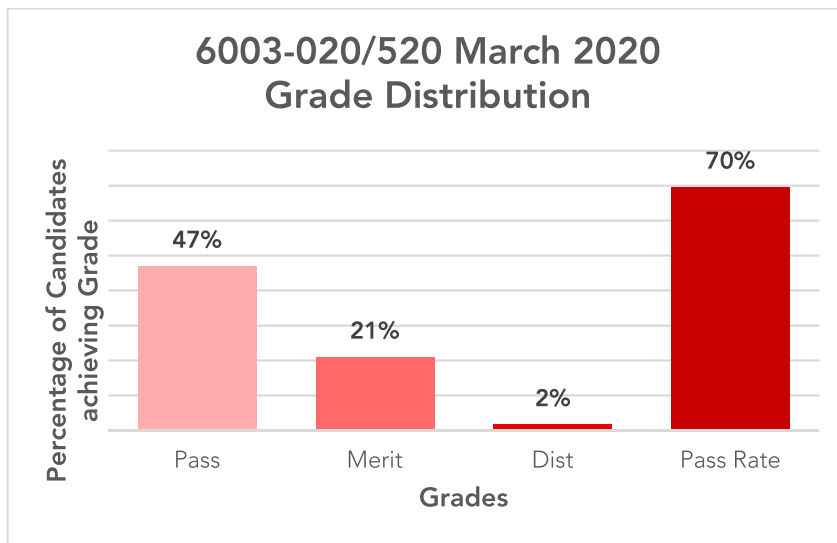
Assessment: **6003-020/520**

Series: **March 2020**

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	24
Merit mark	32
Distinction mark	41

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: 6003-020/520

#### Series 1 (March)

The paper covered a range of learning outcomes and was similar to the March 2019 series in terms of content and difficulty. Candidates on the whole did not perform as well as previous cohorts. As seen in previous series, candidates demonstrated a lack of knowledge in Anatomy and Physiology. This is now becoming a trend for this qualification. Candidates often struggled with questions where they were required to explain their understanding in a structured manner; their responses often recalled identification points but lacked the explanation. Successful candidates demonstrated correct application of industry specific terminology, were more able to problem solve and showed sufficient knowledge and understanding to be able to work safely and independently when carrying out treatments. This was evident in an overall improvement in the extended response question.

Short response questions such as state, list and describe were answered better throughout the paper. The majority of candidates demonstrated good knowledge and understanding relating to the vocational topics, in particular common nail shapes, characteristics of nail conditions, methods of extracting comedones and actions to take when clients experience contra-actions during eye treatments which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these topic areas.

There was a lack of knowledge demonstrated of anatomy and physiology. This was noted as candidates struggled to respond to recall question around naming tarsal bones and blood vessels located in the head. Candidates also struggled with questions that required a deeper level of understanding, particularly around the functions of the lymphatic system. Some candidates missed the opportunity to gain additional marks as they provided limited responses focusing only on identifying the functions such as 'fights infection' and 'removes waste' but were not able to expand on the process itself which inadequately demonstrated understanding as the question required them to explain.

Candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding of methods of sterilisation and sanitisation and generally struggled to differentiate between the two.

Responses were limited where candidates were asked for adaptations made to a facial massage on an elderly client. Many responses outlined adaptations to the facial treatment as a whole; to include product choice, steaming times etc. but only referring to the massage briefly, therefore missed the opportunity to access the full range of marks available.

Many responses showed some confusion of contra-indications that would 'restrict' an eye treatment, incorrectly providing contra-indications that 'prevent'.

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. Overall there was a noted improvement on previous series, with most candidates achieving marks in the middle band. Candidates presented justified treatment plans which linked to client's needs.

Lower scoring candidates' treatment plans were limited and although not incorrect, did not fully meet the client's needs. Candidates often referred to basic treatments such as manicure, pedicure and facials but failed to offer specialist treatments that may have better suited skin and nail conditions presented. In some cases candidates' treatment plans did not reference the appointment time or treatment times were inaccurate. Where patch testing was required, some candidates failed to reference this.

Candidates achieving higher marks were able to link and justify treatments fully, offering a range of treatments with retail, maintenance and ongoing appointments to suit client's objectives. Evidence of reasoning and critical thinking was reflected in response. Candidates referred accurately to skin and nail conditions and demonstrated treatment adaptations and therefore depth of knowledge and understanding.

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://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/beauty-and-complementary-therapies/beauty/6003-beauty-therapy-nails-and-spa#tab=documents>