

**6003-520**

**Level 2 Beauty Therapy  
(Theory Exam)**

**March 2024**

**Examiner Report**

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# 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 2024** 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;  
**6003-520 Level 2 Beauty Therapy – Theory Exam.**

# Theory Exam – March 2024

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

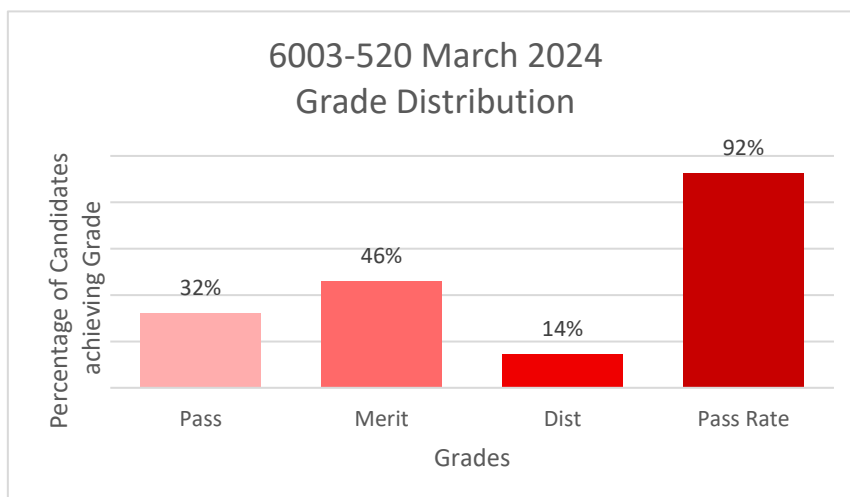
Assessment: **6003-520**

Series: **March 2024**

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: 6003-520**

### Series 1 (March 2024)

The March 2024 paper was comparable to previous past series. Overall, the style, content and format were of the same standard and the level of difficulty maintained. The paper covered a range of content across vocational and anatomy & physiology, with a variety of questions to test knowledge and understanding. The paper provided sufficient stretch and challenge at this level and sampled topics from across the qualification.

There was an overall improvement in the cohort's performance with a noticeable reduction in the number of questions left unanswered by candidates when compared to previous exam series. Some candidates demonstrated a weakness where they struggled to show their understanding in detail, which limited the candidate's opportunities to access higher marks. More successful candidates were able to provide linked responses, identify adaptations linked to specific treatments or client's needs and use a wider range of vocational terminology in their responses.

In most instances, candidates demonstrated a lack of breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding in questions relating to anatomy and physiology; it was noted that the majority of candidates lacked knowledge of structures of the skin and cardiovascular system, and in some instances, candidates provided inaccurate details. On the other hand, many candidates demonstrated good recall knowledge on muscles, and higher achieving candidates were able to demonstrate understanding of specific skin structures.

Knowledge recall questions were generally well answered across the breadth of vocational topics. Most candidates were confident in their understanding of relevant legislation. The vast majority of candidates performed reasonably well on questions linked to practical skills, for example, skin analysis and providing facial and manicure services. Candidates demonstrated knowledge and confidence when outlining safe working practices, and the impact of these on services.

Candidates performing at a higher level were able to identify a range of benefits of facial services, providing some linked explanations and using accurate terminology. Lower achieving candidates could not demonstrate their depth of understanding through linked explanations which limited their access to higher marks.

### Extended Response Question

The Extended Response Question overall was answered well and showed similar performance levels from that seen in the previous year. Lower scoring candidates were able to provide a basic range of treatments with some justifications, however, may not fully link treatments to client's needs and in some instances provided generic information. In some instances, candidates did not effectively plan across the sessions available, offering a minimum range of services.

Those gaining higher marks were able to provide a wider range of treatments and discuss additional elements such as the consideration of client's skin and nail condition and identifying appropriate product choices. Treatments were planned in a suitable order and were appropriate and safety was considered to include patch testing. Candidates gaining marks in the highest band were able to make accurate reference to the client's skin type and provide additional services. They provide a range of bespoke aftercare and homecare which included a range of retail and return treatments and services.

Candidates would benefit from practicing examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates need to be prepared for a range of exam questions and to understand the key command verbs and their expectations. They need to read each question carefully so as not to disadvantage themselves and to ensure the depth of response required is provided.

**Centres are reminded of the City & Guilds Technical 'Exam Guides' available here: [6003-20 12 tech cert beauty therapy technicals exam guidance v1-0-pdf.ashx \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com/~/media/2012/06/6003-2012_tech_cert_beauty_therapy_technicals_exam_guidance_v1-0-pdf.ashx)**