

6003-030/530 – Level 3

**Beauty & Spa Therapy – Theory
Exam**

March 2020

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 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;
6003-030/530 Beauty & Spa Therapy – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

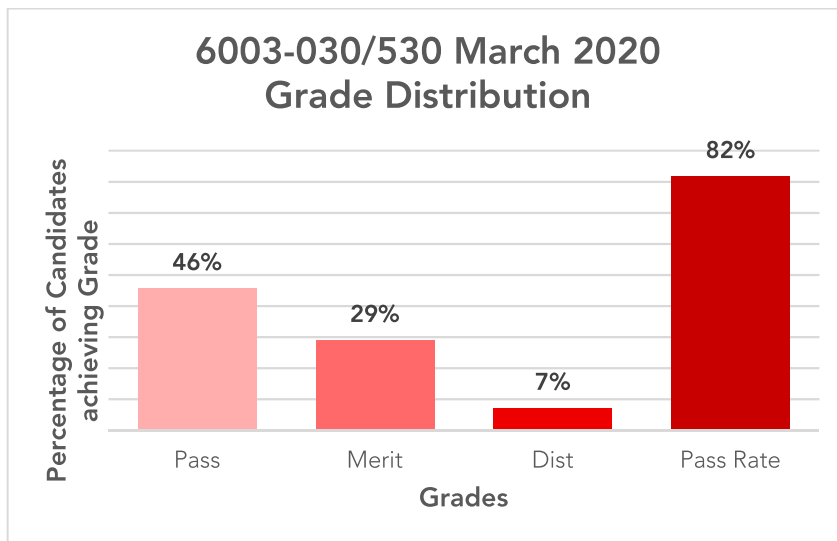
Assessment: **6003-030/530**

Series: **March 2020**

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

Total marks available	80
Pass mark	28
Merit mark	39
Distinction mark	50

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: 6003-030/530

Series 1 (March)

Overall candidates' performance on the paper was comparable to last year's. Candidates that were successful in this examination demonstrated that they have relevant anatomy and physiology knowledge and understanding. Their responses indicated that they could problem solve, adapt treatments and work independently when carrying them out.

The short vocational related knowledge questions were answered generally well throughout the paper. Many candidates were able to demonstrate good knowledge of the functions of the lymphatic system, structures of the lower respiratory system, descriptions of body conditions, safe working practices when carrying out facial treatments and benefits of using massage techniques; which resulted in higher marks being achieved in these areas.

The vocational understanding questions were completed responsibly well with many candidates achieving marks although lower scoring candidates failed to give the explanation with the related effect or impact. Many candidates were also able to demonstrate good understanding of extrinsic factors that can affect the condition of the skin, functions of systemic circulation and promoting body treatments to clients.

Candidates demonstrated weaknesses in anatomy and physiology for both knowledge and understanding questions. Many candidates appeared not to have read the questions correctly as a question asking for joint movements; many responded with joint location, similarly with the question asking for pathologies many responded with structures. Those candidates that were gaining high marks in the vocational related questions were still gaining less marks in anatomy and physiology.

Many candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding of physiological effects of body massage as many responses referred to psychological effects, incorrectly mixing up the physiological and psychological effects.

Many candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding when combining treatments and struggled when they had to explain incorporating the named equipment into either a facial or body treatment, incorrectly explaining the benefits of galvanic as many stated improved muscle tone. Many responses indicated that candidates were unsure of the effects of combining desincrustation and iontophoresis during a facial and did not understand how these treatments could be carried out within a facial.

Candidates need to focus on reading questions as responses in some areas did not relate to what was being asked. One example of this was asking about evaluating sales technique; many candidates incorrectly responded with facts around promoting a new product to the client which was on a question on a previous paper.

The extended response questions is intended to draw on knowledge and understanding from across the qualification. There was an improvement in the responses compared to previous years, demonstrating that candidates had read the scenario, took time to think and plan relevant treatments according to the client's needs. Most candidates provided justified treatment plans which linked to the client's needs and achieved middle band marks.

Lower scoring candidates created very basic treatment plans that were not linked to the client's needs as outlined in the case study and omitted aftercare advice. Also the order of treatments were not discussed in the most appropriate order.

Candidates that achieved higher marks demonstrated evidence of reasoning and critical thinking rather than simply a narrative list of treatments carried out. These responses considered a range of treatment options and provided accurate justification for the choices and recommendations made.

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>