

6003-534 – Level 3 Nail Technology – 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;
6003-534 Level 3 Nail Technology – Theory Exam.

Theory Exam – March 2024

Grade Boundaries and distribution

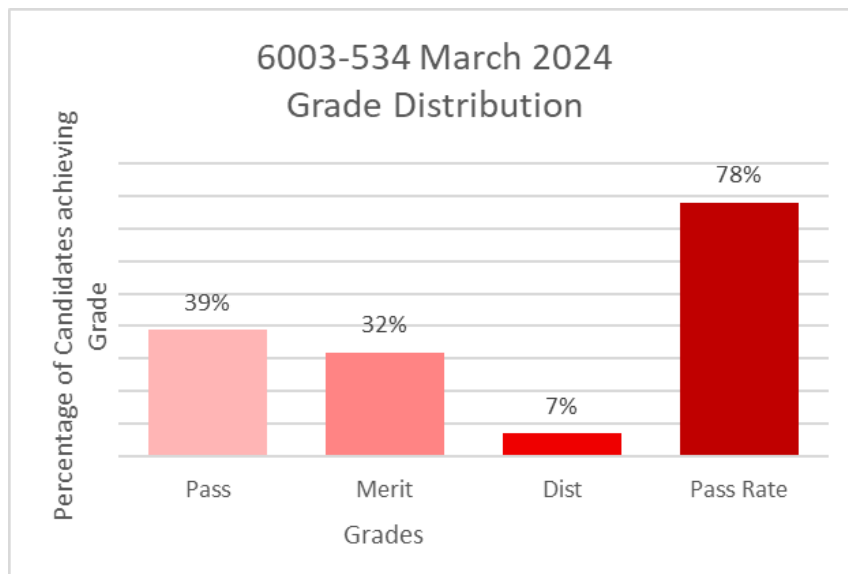
Assessment: **6003-534**

Series: **March 2024**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	26
Merit mark	34
Distinction mark	42

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: 6003-534

Series 1 (March)

The examination paper was inclusive enabling candidates to be stretched and challenged showing a breadth and knowledge and a depth of understanding. Overall candidate's performance on the paper was similar to March 2023. Candidates who were successful in the exam showed they had sufficient knowledge to work safely, independently or with a team within a nail salon/setting. Many candidates did well in the recall of knowledge (AO1) questions across the paper, however candidates failed to provide detailed explanations when responding to the (AO2) understanding questions.

Candidates attempted to answer understanding (AO2) questions; however, some candidates were unable to gain higher marks due to the limited depth of understanding shown and were unable to provide a structured response. As highlighted in previous papers, anatomy and physiology continues to be a challenge for most candidates.

Candidates demonstrated a good level of knowledge and understanding in the following topic areas:

- Remove nail enhancements
- Service objectives
- Communication and behaviour

Many candidates did not demonstrate a good level of knowledge and understanding in the following topic areas:

- Structure of the blood vessels
- Diseases, disorders and contra-indications related to the skin, nails
- Chemical bonds of products
- Environmental and sustainable working practices

Candidates did not show understanding of the topic 'Chemical bonds of products'. For example, a question on how chemical bonds work in an acid primer was poorly answered. Candidates were able to describe what a primer was but did not explain the chemical composition of how the primer worked. Candidates struggled to provide a correct response to the topic of sustainability within the salon. Candidates' responses to this topic often related to health and safety practices and salon procedures that were not sustainable and therefore incorrect.

Extended Response Question

The extended response question is to draw knowledge across the subject area candidates are studying. The integrated question this year was performed well by candidates showing a breadth of knowledge with a high majority of candidates achieving marks in band two and some candidates achieving marks in band three. Higher-scoring candidates showed they could make justifications for the service choices made and could link the client's needs. There was a small cohort of candidates who did not have a comprehensive service plan with clear justifications to reach band two or higher. Some candidates did not provide aftercare and justifications in their response. Overall, some candidates needed to add depth to their response and show underpinning knowledge in the justification of services and products for the client.

In order to achieve higher marks, candidates are encouraged to consider all aspects of services available, taking into account the client's needs and expectations with justifications for a clear recommendation of service. Candidates will need to have the ability to compare, justify and discuss service options with the underpinning knowledge to evaluate a proposed, well thought out service plan. This will give the candidates the best opportunity to access the higher mark bands in this question.

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

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