



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Acrylic Nails (SCQF level 6)

CODE F6XH 12

SUMMARY

This Unit has been designed as an optional Unit in the National Certificate Group Award (NCGA) in Beauty at SCQF level 6 and can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

Candidates will learn about the nail structure. They will develop practical skills in application, infill and removal of acrylic nails. They will also learn how to analyse the nails before selecting appropriate products to enhance the client's nails, as well as learning practical skills in nail extension, infill of and removal of extension. The focus is on practical activities to develop skills in this Unit. It is essential that relevant aspects of current Health and Safety legislation are explained and adhered to as part of this Unit.

This Unit is suitable for those with no previous qualifications or experience. Knowledge of nail care would be advantageous.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge of the nail structure.
- 2 Prepare for acrylic nail extension in a recognised environment.
- 3 Carry out acrylic nail extension in a recognised environment.
- 4 Maintain acrylic nail extension in a recognised environment.

Administrative Information

Superclass: HL

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RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates have attained one of the following, or equivalent:

- ◆ *F4C3 11: Manicure*
- ◆ *F5B2 12: Beauty: Nail Finishes*

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at SCQF level 6 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this Unit. Opportunities for developing aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in *Guidance on Learning and Teaching Approaches*

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the nail structure.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and describe the nail structure.
- (b) Describe common nail conditions.
- (c) Identify factors which would prevent nail extension taking place.

OUTCOME 2

Prepare for acrylic nail extension in a recognised environment.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Consult with the client to determine treatment requirements.
- (b) Analyse condition of the nails.
- (c) Prepare the client for identified nail extension.
- (d) Select correct resources to be used according to treatment requirements and salon range.
- (e) Record nail extension treatment and product selection on client record.

OUTCOME 3

Carry out acrylic nail extension in a recognised environment.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Carry out acrylic nail extension using correct nail tips and forms relevant to clients needs.
- (b) Give relevant homecare advice and product recommendations to client.
- (c) Record homecare and product recommendation on client record card.
- (d) Comply with relevant current health and safety requirements while carrying out nail extensions.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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OUTCOME 4

Maintain acrylic nail extension in a recognised environment.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Carry out an acrylic infill procedure and removal relevant to clients needs
- (b) Give relevant homecare advice and product recommendations to client
- (c) Record homecare and product recommendation on client record card
- (d) Comply with relevant current health and safety requirements

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Performance evidence and written/oral recorded evidence which covers all the Outcomes and Performance Criteria is required for this Unit.

Outcome 1 Structured Questions

Structured questions will be carried out in closed-book conditions. The questions must enable candidates to demonstrate knowledge of the nail, and will cover

- ◆ nail structure — matrix, cuticle, lunula, perionychium, eponychium, nail bed, nail groove, nail wall, nail plate, hyponychium, free edge
- ◆ common nail conditions — leuconychia, bruised nail, splinter haemorrhages, hangnails, corrugations, furrows, ptergium, onychophagy, split/brittle nails
- ◆ factors which would prevent treatment taking place — infectious diseases, bacterial infection, thin/eggshell nails, exposed nail bed

Outcome 2 Performance Evidence

Candidates will be required to demonstrate by practical activity on a minimum of **three** occasions that they are able to:

- ◆ consult with the client to determine treatment requirements
- ◆ analyse the condition of the nails
- ◆ prepare client for identified nail extension
- ◆ select correct products according to the treatment requirements and salon range — sanitizer, infection protection, primer, monomer, acrylic powders (white/pink/clear), acetone, cuticle oil, brush cleaner, adhesive
- ◆ select correct resources and equipment to carry out nail extension/enhancement — extractor unit, acrylic brush, forms, various grit nail files, three way buffer, cuticle pusher/hoofed stick, dappen dish, nail wipes, tissue, towel, arm rest, nail cutters, eye protectors
- ◆ record nail extension and product selection on client record

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3 Performance Evidence

Candidates will be required to demonstrate by practical activity on a minimum of **one** occasion that they are able to:

- ◆ carry out nail extension including relevant tips and forms, finishing techniques
- ◆ give relevant homecare advice and product recommendation to the client
- ◆ record homecare and product recommendation on client record
- ◆ comply with relevant current health and safety requirements while carrying out nail extension

Outcome 4 Performance Evidence

Candidates will be required to demonstrate by practical activity on a minimum of **two** occasions that they are able to:

- ◆ carry out infill of extension including relevant preparation, finishing techniques
- ◆ carry out removal of nail extension including relevant preparation, finishing techniques
- ◆ give relevant homecare advice and product recommendations to client
- ◆ record homecare and product recommendation on client record
- ◆ comply with relevant current health and safety requirements while carrying out acrylic nail maintenance

Performance evidence in Outcome 2 must be integrated with Outcomes 3 and 4.

Performance evidence must include **full set** application, **which must use form and acrylic, full set** infill, **full set** removal. Performance must be completed in a viable commercial time.

An assessor observation checklist and completed client record must be used to provide evidence of performance for Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

Candidates will learn about the structure of the nail. They will also learn how to analyse the nails before selecting appropriate products to enhance the clients' nails, as well as learning practical skills in nail extension, infill of extension and removal of extension.

Candidates will participate in a number of activities which will help them develop the skills contained within this Unit.

It is essential that relevant aspects of current Health and Safety legislation are explained and adhered to as part of this Unit.

Key areas of knowledge are:

- ◆ nail structure — matrix, cuticle, lunula, perionychium, eponychium, nail bed, nail groove, nail wall, nail plate, hyponychium, free edge
- ◆ common nail conditions — hangnails, corrugations, furrows, ptergium, onychophagy, split/brittle nails
- ◆ hygiene in the salon
- ◆ prevention of infection
- ◆ factors which would prevent treatment taking place — infectious diseases, bacterial infection, thin/eggshell nails, conditions which would cause discomfort to the client
- ◆ working safely in the salon
- ◆ resources required
- ◆ knowledge of requirements of current health and safety legislation and where to find further information
 - Health and Safety at Work Act
 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health [COSHH] Regulations
 - Electricity at Work Regulations
 - Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] at Work Regulations
 - Data Protection Act
 - Consumer Protection Act
 - Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations
- ◆ organisational requirements relating to treatment areas, storage and disposal
- ◆ client preparation
- ◆ product knowledge — salons range of nail extension products eg monomer, powder
- ◆ salon procedure for — application, infill, removal
- ◆ tools and equipment
- ◆ how to select a treatment which meets clients needs
- ◆ effective communication

Practical activities should be carried out in a realistic working environment or real work place. The Unit is not suitable for delivery in a conventional classroom setting.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

There should be an induction to the Unit which allows candidates to understand fully what is required and the approaches which will be adopted.

The main approaches to learning and teaching should be experiential, practical, candidate and client centred. Candidates should have the opportunity to learn and develop practical skills in a salon environment, where they will experience workplace conditions.

Due to the practical nature of this Unit each part of learning/teaching should incorporate both theory and practical, to facilitate learning. Candidates will therefore understand the relevance of the knowledge and demonstrate understanding as they experience the practical application. The learning and teaching should arise naturally throughout the practical activities.

Practical demonstration followed by supported role play, initially with peers, will enable candidates to practice and gain confidence before progressing to work with clients. Formative work throughout will enhance performance.

The importance of working safely in the salon should be stressed.

Candidates should be shown how to extend a nail using the mixture of monomer and powder to produce an acrylic structure, maintain the acrylic nail by infilling using monomer and powder and remove acrylic nails using 100% acetone.

The candidate should be given a significant amount of time within this Unit to develop and practise.

Cost effective use of products should also be discussed.

Candidates should be able to give relevant homecare advice to clients.

It is important that candidates are made aware that the handling, disposing and storing of equipment and materials must comply with both the organisations and manufacturers instructions and legal requirements.

Achievement of this Unit will be dependant on the candidate being able to carry out practical activities either in a realistic working environment or real workplace, which involves working with clients, to develop good working practice.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In this Unit candidates will interact with clients. This is a good opportunity for developing aspects of the Core Skill *Communication* and interpersonal skills.

Candidates will be required to analyse, organise, plan and carryout treatments. These are opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The evidence requirements are fully expressed in the Mandatory section of this Unit Specification.

There are good opportunities for formative assessment in this Unit.

Examples of a recognised salon environment include beauty salon, nail bar.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

DISABLED CANDIDATES AND/OR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Clarification of common nail conditions on page 4.	26/07/2012