National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: H2MM 11

Superclass: HL

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Summary

This Unit provides candidates with essential skills to cut and style hair using a variety of cutting/styling techniques using equipment, tools, styling/finishing products which will aid styling and enhance the finished result.

This Unit is suitable for candidates with little or no prior knowledge of cutting and styling hair or candidates wishing to refresh existing skills.

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Progression Award in Hairdressing Technical Skills at SCQF level 5, but is also available as a freestanding Unit.

Outcomes

1 Develop an understanding of essential ladies' cutting and styling techniques through research.
2 Prepare to perform cut and style the hair.
3 Perform the cut and style.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it is recommended that candidates have previously achieved the following:

C238 10 *Hairdressing*
F4BX 11 *Blow Drying Techniques*
F4C8 11 *Setting and Winding Techniques for Hair*

Please note: for legislative reasons, this Unit is only available to post-16 candidates.

General information (cont)

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

Credit points and level

2 National Unit credits at SCQF level 5: (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills components:

Complete Core Skill	None
Core Skill component	Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 Planning and Organising at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

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

Develop an understanding of essential ladies' cutting and styling techniques through research.

Performance Criteria

(a) Research and collate images of ladies' cuts and styles.
(b) Describe the cutting techniques and tools used in ladies' hair cutting.
(c) Describe how influencing factors may affect the required cut and style.
(d) Describe how appropriate styling techniques will effect and enhance the cut.
(e) Describe styling and finishing products that could be used for each style and their effect on the hair.
(f) Explain the importance of working safely while cutting and styling hair.

Outcome 2

Prepare to perform cut and style the hair.

Performance Criteria

(a) Conduct a detailed client consultation to identify requirements.
(b) Identify and explain influencing factors.
(c) Confirm mutual understanding and agreement of proposed style.
(d) Prepare the work area and select tools and equipment for the proposed cut and style.
(e) Prepare client for cut and style.

Outcome 3

Perform the cut and style.

Performance Criteria

(a) Perform the haircut.
(b) Choose appropriate styling products.
(c) Style the hair to enhance and define the style.
(d) Choose appropriate finishing products to enhance and define the haircut.
(e) Liaise with client throughout service to ensure progression is satisfactory.
(f) Adhere to health and safety procedures.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates meet the requirements of all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1 — Written and/or oral evidence

Candidates will produce a folio containing a selection of ladies' hairstyles, describing the cutting techniques and styling techniques used and the effects they have on the cut and style.

The folio must include the following:

- description of cutting terms — solid form, layering techniques, graduating techniques, thinning/texturising
- description of cutting angles, guidelines and tools used to produce each of the cutting terms mentioned
- reference to influencing factors
- description of styling techniques used to enhance and define each style
- description of styling and finishing products that could be used and the effects they have on the cut and style
- an explanation of why it is important to continue to liaise with clients while cutting and styling the hair
- an explanation of why it is important to follow health and safety procedures while cutting and styling the hair

The evidence will be produced under open-book conditions. The assessor will record evidence using an observation checklist.

Outcomes 2 and 3 — Performance and product evidence

Outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed holistically. Evidence will be generated through practical performance on a minimum of five occasions.

Candidates will perform five ladies' cut and styles, using a variety of cutting and styling techniques to include:

- one length hair cut above or below the shoulders
- two layered haircuts
- two graduated haircuts, where one must have ears visible

The assessment must adhere to the following criteria:

- one of the above must include a fringe
- using a variety of brushes the candidate must cover the following:
  - — increase volume (for at least one of the above)
  - — decrease volume (for at least one of the above)
  - — create movement (for at least one of the above)

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

For each cut and style, candidates must:

- perform a detailed consultation with the client
- identify influencing factors
- prepare the client for cut and style
- prepare the work area
- select tools, equipment and products
- style hair to enhance/define the haircut
- follow health and safety procedures

All assessments must be performed on live models. The use of mannequin heads for assessment purposes is not appropriate.

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

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Progression Award in Hairdressing: Technical Skills at SCQF level 5, but is also available as a freestanding Unit. Please note: for legislative reasons, this Unit is only available to post-16 candidates.

This Unit takes a holistic approach in developing skills essential in cutting and styling ladies' hair. This Unit will enable candidates to choose appropriate tools and products to enhance and define the style.

Key areas of knowledge

- recognising essential cutting and styling techniques used in ladies' hairstyling
- identifying influencing factors, ie hair types, hair growth patterns, face/head shape, lifestyle and how they will affect the cut/style
- product knowledge
- working safely while cutting and styling hair

Key areas of practical skills

- carrying out client consultations to ascertain client requirements
- recognising influencing factors
- confirming understanding and agreeing on a cut and style with clients
- selecting tools and using appropriate cutting techniques to perform haircutting
- cutting ladies' hair using essential cutting techniques
- styling hair and applying styling and finishing products to enhance and define cuts and styles
- carrying out preparation of clients, hair and work areas prior to performing cuts and styles
- liaising throughout service to ensure comfort and positive progression of the cut/style

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The focus of the Unit is candidate-centred and predominantly practical.

Candidates will benefit from listening and watching demonstrations by tutors covering all of the Performance Criteria set out in this Unit and then practicing these techniques.

The tutor should be encouraged to use various sources of demonstration and technique explanation to ensure all learning styles are being addressed.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

Mannequin heads should be permitted for use early on in practice, but candidates must be encouraged to move on to live models for practice before formative assessment takes place.

While it is essential that candidates develop knowledge and understanding in relation to specific cutting techniques, it should be emphasised that being able to bring various cutting techniques together to produce complete and personalised looks is fundamental to being commercially viable.

Taking pictures of candidates' work may motivate them to aim for a higher standard, and allow them to reflect on their work.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Formative assessment will play a large part of candidates' development and summative assessment should only take place when formative assessment makes clear that they are ready. All performance assessment must be carried out on live models.

Outcome 1 should be on going throughout the Unit, as this will instil essential underpinning knowledge of use in the later Outcomes. For Outcome 1, oral questioning may be used where it is felt additional evidence is required.

Outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed holistically and should only be assessed after candidates have had adequate practice, covering all the criteria set within the Unit.

Candidates should be assessed on five occasions. An assessor observation checklist will be used to ensure the Performance Criteria set within each of the Outcomes have been met.

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 social software. 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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

This Unit may provide the opportunities to develop Core Skills through practical activity.

Candidates will be working with clients which involves listening, seeking information, planning resources and giving advice. These are good opportunities for developing *Communication*, *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* skills.

Candidates will also be measuring and recording the use of colour products which will offer scope to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Numeracy*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Essential Cutting and Styling Techniques (SCQF level 5)

This Unit has the Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising components of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 4.

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**

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Components Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 4 embedded.	04/02/2013
03	To clarify the context and content of the Unit and the approaches to assessment.	19/02/2013

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