
Overview

This standard is about the precision cutting skills involved in barbering to achieve a variety of looks and neckline finishes for men using club cutting, scissor over comb, clipper over comb, thinning and freehand techniques.

To carry out this standard, you will need to maintain a high level of health, safety and hygiene throughout your work. You will also need to maintain a professional personal appearance and demonstrate effective communication skills.

In this standard, razors will only be used for removing unwanted hair outside the outline shape.

The main outcomes of this standard are:

- 1 maintain effective and safe methods of working when cutting hair
- 2 cut hair to achieve a variety of looks

**Performance
criteria**

Maintain effective and safe methods of working when cutting hair

- You must be able to:
- P1 maintain your responsibilities for health and safety throughout the service
 - P2 protect your client's clothing throughout the service
 - P3 keep your client's skin free of excess hair cuttings throughout the service
 - P4 position your client to meet the needs of the service without causing them discomfort
 - P5 ensure your own posture and position whilst working minimises fatigue and the risk of injury
 - P6 keep your work area clean and tidy throughout the service
 - P7 use working methods that:
 - P7.1 minimise the risk of damage to **tools and equipment**
 - P7.2 ensure the use of gloves when using razors
 - P7.3 minimise the risk of cross-infection
 - P7.4 make effective use of your working time
 - P7.5 ensure the use of clean resources
 - P7.6 minimise the risk of harm or injury to yourself and others
 - P7.7 promote environmental and sustainable working practices
 - P8 ensure your personal hygiene, protection and presentation meets accepted industry and organisational requirements
 - P9 follow workplace, suppliers' and or manufacturers' instructions for the safe use of equipment, materials and products
 - P10 dispose of waste materials and sharps
 - P11 complete the cutting service within a commercially viable time

Cut hair to achieve a variety of looks

- You must be able to:
- P12 prepare your client's **hair** prior to cutting
 - P13 confirm with your client the **look** agreed during consultation prior to commencing the cut
 - P14 create and follow the cutting guideline(s) to achieve the required **look**
 - P15 use cutting **techniques** that suit your client's hair type and achieve the desired **look**

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- P16 adapt your cutting **techniques** to take account of **factors** likely to influence the service
 - P17 change your own position and that of your client to help ensure the accuracy of the cut
 - P18 establish accurate distribution of weight balance and shape of the hair
 - P19 create **neckline shapes** taking account of the natural hairline
 - P20 achieve outlines that are accurate and remove unwanted hair outside the desired **outline shape**
 - P21 balance and shape sideburns to suit the hair style and to meet your client's requirements
 - P22 consult with your client during the cutting process to confirm the desired **look**
 - P23 make a final visual check to ensure that the finished cut and outlines are accurate
 - P24 leave hair ready for the next part of the service or finish to meet your client's requirements
 - P25 confirm your client's satisfaction with the finished cut
 - P26 give your client **advice and recommendations** on the service provided

Knowledge and understanding

Maintain effective and safe methods of working when cutting hair

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your responsibilities for health and safety as defined by the specific legislation covering your job role
- K2 your salon's requirements for client preparation
- K3 the range of protective clothing that should be available for clients
- K4 why it is important to use gloves when using a razor
- K5 why it is important to protect clients from hair cuttings
- K6 how the position of your client and yourself can affect the desired outcome, reduce fatigue and the risk of injury
- K7 the correct use and maintenance of cutting tools
- K8 why it is important to position your cutting tools for ease of use
- K9 the safety considerations which must be taken into account when cutting hair
- K10 the different types of working methods that promote **environmental and sustainable working practices**
- K11 why it is important to avoid cross-infection and cross-infestation
- K12 the importance of following your stylist's instructions including effective use of your working time
- K13 why it is important to keep your work area clean and tidy
- K14 methods of cleaning, disinfecting and sterilisation used in salons
- K15 methods of working safely and hygienically which minimises the risk of cross-infection and cross-infestation
- K16 the hazards and risks which exist in your workplace and the safe working practices which you must follow
- K17 the importance of personal hygiene, protection and presentation in maintaining health and safety in your workplace
- K18 suppliers' and manufacturers' instructions for the safe use of equipment, materials and products which you must follow
- K19 the correct methods of waste disposal
- K20 your salon's expected service times for different cutting looks

Cut hair to achieve a variety of looks

You need to know
and understand:

- K21 how to prepare your client's hair prior to cutting
- K22 why hair products should be removed from the hair prior to cutting
- K23 the importance of correctly combing out the hair prior to cutting
- K24 which tools can be used on either wet or dry hair or both
- K25 the importance of confirming with your client the look agreed during consultation prior to commencing the cut
- K26 the reasons for establishing and following guidelines
- K27 how to create and follow guidelines for different cutting looks
- K28 how and when to use different cutting techniques and the effects achieved
- K29 the importance of considering weight distribution and working with the natural growth patterns of the hair
- K30 how different cutting angles will impact on weight distribution, balance and the degree of graduation
- K31 the importance of applying the correct degree of tension to the hair when cutting
- K32 the factors that must be taken into consideration prior to and during cutting and how these may impact on the cutting service
- K33 the types of clippers, clipper blades and attachments available and the effects that these achieve
- K34 how to safely carry out an eyebrow trim
- K35 the factors which should be considered when cutting wet hair and dry hair
- K36 the importance of changing your own position and that of your client to help you ensure the accuracy of the cut
- K37 the importance of keeping the hair damp when wet cutting
- K38 the importance of establishing accurate distribution of weight, balance and shape by regularly crosschecking the cut
- K39 how to create different neckline and outline shapes
- K40 the importance of cutting to the natural neckline in barbering
- K41 how to achieve outlines that are accurate and remove unwanted hair outside the desired outline shape
- K42 the importance of balance and shape sideburns to suit the hair style and to meet your client's requirements

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- K43 the importance of consulting with clients throughout the cutting process
 - K44 the visual checks required to ensure the finished cut and outlines are accurate
 - K45 the importance of leaving hair ready for the next part of the service or finish to meet your client's requirements
 - K46 the importance of confirming your client's satisfaction with the finished cut
 - K47 the average rate of hair growth
 - K48 the known causes and typical patterns of male pattern baldness
 - K49 the importance of providing **advice and recommendations** on the products and services provided in the salon

Additional information

Scope/range related to performance criteria	1	Tools and equipment
	1.1	scissors
	1.2	clippers
	1.3	clipper attachments
	1.4	trimmers
	1.5	razors
	2	Hair
	2.1	wet
	2.2	dry
	3	Look
	3.1	uniform layer
	3.2	square layer
	3.3	graduation
	3.4	flat top
	3.5	with a fringe
	3.6	with a parting
	3.7	around the ear outline
	3.8	over the ear
	3.9	with a fade
	3.10	eyebrow trim
4	Techniques	
4.1	club cutting	
4.2	scissor over comb	
4.3	clipper over comb	
4.4	freehand	

4.5 thinning

4.6 fading

5 Factors

5.1 hair characteristics

5.2 hair classifications

5.3 head and face shape

5.4 presence of male pattern baldness

5.5 piercings

5.6 adverse skin conditions

6 Neckline shapes

6.1 tapered

6.2 squared

6.3 full neck line

7 Outline shapes

7.1 Natural

7.2 Created

7.3 tapered

8 Advice and recommendations

8.1 how to maintain their look

8.2 time interval between services

8.3 future and present products and services.

**Scope/range related
to knowledge and
understanding**

1 Health and safety

your responsibilities for health and safety as defined by any specific legislation covering your job role

- 1.1 Health and Safety at Work Act
- 1.2 The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR)
- 1.3 The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations
- 1.4 The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order
- 1.5 The Manual Handling Operations Regulations
- 1.6 The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)
- 1.7 The Electricity at Work Regulations
- 1.8 The Environmental Protection Act
- 1.9 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations
- 1.10 The Health and Safety (Information for Employees) Regulations

2 Environmental and sustainable working practices

the different types of working methods that promote environmental and sustainable working practices

- 2.1 reducing waste and managing waste (recycle, reuse, safe disposal)
- 2.2 reducing energy usage (energy efficiency hairdryers, low energy lighting, utilising solar panels)
- 2.3 reducing water usage and other resources
- 2.4 preventing pollution
- 2.5 using disposable items (easy dry towels)
- 2.6 using recycled, eco friendly furniture
- 2.7 using low chemical paint
- 2.8 using organic and allergy free hair products
- 2.9 using ultra-low ammonia hair colourants
- 2.10 using environmentally friendly product packaging
- 2.11 choosing responsible domestic products (Fairtrade tea and coffee)

2.12 encouraging carbon reducing journeys to work

3. Factors

the different factors that must be taken into consideration prior to and during cutting and how these may impact on the cutting service

- 3.1 hair classifications
- 3.2 hair characteristics
- 3.3 head and face shape
- 3.4 hair growth patterns

4. Techniques

how and when to use different cutting **techniques** and the effects achieved

- 4.1 club cutting
- 4.2 scissor over comb
- 4.3 clipper over comb
- 4.4 freehand
- 4.5 thinning
- 4.6 fading

5. Looks

how to create and follow a guideline for different cutting **looks**

- 5.1 uniform layer
- 5.2 square layer
- 5.3 graduation
- 5.4 flat top
- 5.5 with a fringe
- 5.6 with a parting

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- 5.7 around the ear outline
 - 5.8 over the ear
 - 5.9 with a fade
 - 5.10 eyebrow trim

6. Advice and recommendations

- 6.1 additional services
- 6.2 additional products

Values

- 1 The following key **values** underpin the delivery of services in the hair and barbering sector:
 - 1.1 a willingness to learn
 - 1.2 the completion of services in a commercially viable time
 - 1.3 meeting both organisational and industry standards of appearance
 - 1.4 ensuring personal hygiene and protection meets accepted industry and organisational requirements
 - 1.5 a flexible working attitude
 - 1.6 a team worker
 - 1.7 maintaining customer care
 - 1.8 a positive attitude
 - 1.9 personal and professional ethics
 - 1.10 the ability to self manage
 - 1.11 creativity skills
 - 1.12 excellent verbal and non-verbal communication skills
 - 1.13 the maintenance of effective, hygienic and safe working methods
 - 1.14 adherence to workplace, suppliers or manufacturers' instructions for the safe use of equipment, materials and products

Behaviours

- 1 The following **behaviours** underpin the delivery of services in the hair and barbering sector. These behaviours ensure that clients receive a positive impression of both the salon and the individual:
 - 1.1 meeting the salon's standards of behaviour
 - 1.2 greeting the client respectfully and in a friendly manner
 - 1.3 communicating with the client in a way that makes them feel valued and respected
 - 1.4 identifying and confirming the client's expectations
 - 1.5 treating the client courteously and helpfully at all times
 - 1.6 keeping the client informed and reassured
 - 1.7 adapting behaviour to respond effectively to different client behaviour
 - 1.8 responding to a client seeking assistance
 - 1.9 selecting the most appropriate way of communicating with the client
 - 1.10 checking with the client that you have fully understood their expectations
 - 1.11 responding positively to the client's questions and comments
 - 1.12 allowing the client time to consider the response and give further explanation when appropriate
 - 1.13 quickly locating information that will help the client
 - 1.14 giving the client the information they need about the services or products offered by the salon
 - 1.15 recognising information that the client might find complicated and checking whether they fully understand
 - 1.16 explaining clearly to the client any reasons why their needs or expectations cannot be met

Glossary

1 Hair classification (this is a guideline only)

Type 1 – Straight hair

- 1.1 Fine/Thin – hair tends to be very soft, shiny and oily, and it can be difficult to hold a curl.
- 1.2 Medium – hair has lots of volume and body.
- 1.3 Coarse – hair is normally extremely straight and difficult to curl.

Type 2 – Wavy hair

- 2.1 Fine/Thin – hair has a definite “S” pattern. Normally can accomplish various styles
- 2.2 Medium – hair tends to be frizzy and a little resistant to Styling.
- 2.3 Coarse – hair is also resistant to styling and normally very frizzy; tends to have thicker waves.

Type 3 – Curly hair

- 3.1 Loose curls – hair tends to have a combination texture. It can be thick and full with lots of body, with a definite “S” pattern. It also tends to be frizzy.
- 3.2 Tight curls – also tends to have a combination texture, with a medium amount of curl.

Type 4 – Very curly hair

- 4.1 Soft – hair tends to be very fragile, tightly coiled and has a more defined curly pattern.
- 4.2 Wiry – also very fragile and tightly coiled; however with a less defined curly pattern – has more of a “Z” pattern shape..

2 Hair characteristics includes the following:

- 2.1. hair density
- 2.2. hair texture
- 2.3. hair elasticity
- 2.4. hair porosity

- 2.5. hair condition
- 2.6. hair growth patterns

3 Uniform layer cut

- 3.1 all sections of the hair are cut to the same length with scissors

4 Full neck line

- 4.1 collar length hair

5 Trimmers

- 5.1 small clippers with smaller blades to create a closer, finer cut with more definition and detail

6 Flat Top

- 6.1 The haircut is usually done with clippers using the clipper over comb technique, though it can also be cut scissor over comb or freehand with a clipper. The hair at the crown is cut from about one quarter to one half inch whilst the barber stands behind the client. He then positions himself in front and cuts the top hair to about two inches in length and then to the desired height across the top from side to side whilst progressing back to the shorter hair at the crown. The exact lengths are dependent on skull shape and the style of flat top. Intricate cutting of the top and upper sides follow to achieve a specific inclination and squarish effect. There are many adaptations of this haircut such as the DA, horseshoe or high top fade.

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Cut hair using basic barbering techniques



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