



Assessor's Guidelines:

GV3V 23: SVQ in Hairdressing at SCQF level 6

and

GV3X 23: SVQ in Barbering at SCQF level 6

First edition: November 2023

Second edition: July 2024

Publication code: DB6348

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Published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
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www.sqa.org.uk

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History of changes

Edition	Description of change	Date
Second	Page 17: Individual unit guidance Mandatory units common to all SVQ group awards New statement for knowledge and understanding requirements.	July 2024

Acknowledgements

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's educational institutes have made in the development of qualifications.

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About this guide

This document provides guidance for centre staff involved in the assessment of candidates undertaking the following qualifications:

- ◆ GV3V 23: SVQ in Hairdressing at SCQF level 6.
- ◆ GV3X 23: SVQ in Barbering at SCQF level 6.

Introduction

SVQ qualifications

The SQA qualifications for SVQ in Hairdressing at SCQF level 6 and SVQ in Barbering at SCQF level 6 have been developed in line with the Skills Active review of National Occupational Standards (NOS) for hairdressing and barbering (2021) and the Assessment Strategy produced by HABIA (the standard setting body for the hair and beauty industry), in consultation with industry specialists including hairdressing professionals, further education colleges and private training providers.

This guide should be used in conjunction with the current Habia Assessment Strategy which outlines Habia's industry specific principles in regard to:

- ◆ External quality control of assessment.
- ◆ Workplace assessment, inclusive of simulation.
- ◆ Assessment of knowledge and understanding.
- ◆ Occupational competence requirements for those involved in the assessment and quality assurance process.

Follow the link for access to the full PDF publication:

[Assessment Strategy for SVQs in Hairdressing and Barbering at SCQF levels 5 and 6](#)

Structure of the SVQ awards

This section provides an overview of the group awards and provides details of the mandatory and optional units which form the framework for each qualification.

GV3V 23: SVQ in Hairdressing at SCQF level 6

To be awarded the SVQ in hairdressing qualification, the candidate must achieve a minimum of eight units:

- ◆ six units from Group A and the remaining two units from Group B.

Mandatory units: Group A (Six units must be achieved from this group.)

Unit code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	NOS	Unit title
J7N5 04	6	7	SKAHDBRBNS1	Consult, Assess, Plan and Prepare for Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Nails, Wellbeing and Holistic Services
J7N7 04	6	7	SKAHDBRBNST1	Implement and Maintain Safe, Hygienic and Effective Working Practices
J7NS 04	6	8	SKAHD2	Creatively Set, Style, Dress and Finish Hair using Advanced Techniques
J7NT 04	6	16	SKAHDBR20	Combine Hairdressing Cutting Techniques to Create a Bespoke Restyled Look
J7NV 04	7	21	SKAHDBR6	Creatively Colour and Lighten the Hair using Advanced Techniques
J7NW 04	7	23	SKAHDR7	Provide Hair Colour Corrective Services

Optional units: Group B (A minimum of two must be achieved from this group.)

Unit code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	NOS	Unit title
J7NX 04	5	7	SKAHDBR8	Cultivate, Maintain and Repair Locks
J7NY 04	7	14	SKAHDBR11	Provide Advanced Perming Techniques
J7P0 04	6	8	SKAHDBR12	Provide Smoothing Treatments
J7P1 04	6	13	SKAHDBR13	Relax Hair Permanently
J7P2 04	6	13	SKAHDBR15	Attach Hair using Heat, Chemical Adhesive and / or Advanced Techniques
J7P3 04	6	10	SKACHB15	Develop, Enhance and Evaluate your Creative Hairdressing Skills
J7P4 04	7	12	SKAHDBRBNST3	Plan, Implement and Evaluate Promotional Activities
J7P5 04	6	8	SKAHDBRBNST2	Contribute to the Financial Effectiveness of the Business
J7P6 04	7	12	SKAHDBMN1	Plan, Prepare and Participate in Competitions in the Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Make-up and Nails Sectors
J7P7 04	7	12	SKAHDBRBNT1	Undertake Freelance Work

GV3X 23: SVQ in Barbering at SCQF level 6

To be awarded the SVQ in Barbering at SCQF level 6 qualification, the candidate must achieve a minimum of eight units:

- ◆ five units from Group A and the remaining three units from Group B.

Mandatory units — Group A (five units must be achieved from this group.)

Unit code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	NOS	Unit title
J7N5 04	6	7	SKAHDBRBNS1	Consult, Assess, Plan, and Prepare for Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Nails, Wellbeing and Holistic Services
J7N7 04	6	7	SKAHDBRBNST1	Implement and Maintain Safe, Hygienic, and Effective Working Practices
J7NN 04	6	8	SKABR2	Design and Create Facial Hair Shapes using Advanced Techniques
J7NM 04	6	12	SKABR4	Provide Shaving Services using a Straight Razor with Single Use Blades
J7NK 04	6	16	SKAHDBR21	Combine Barbering Cutting and Clipping Techniques to Create a Bespoke Restyled Look

Optional units — Group B (A minimum of three must be achieved from this group.)

Unit code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	NOS	Unit title
J7PB 04	6	9	SKABR3	Design and Create Hair Designs and Shapes in the Hair using Advanced Clipper and Razor Techniques
J7NV 04	7	21	SKAHDBR6	Creatively Colour and Lighten Hair using Advanced Techniques
J7NX 04	6	7	SKAHDBR8	Cultivate, Maintain and Repair Locks
JYP1 04	6	13	SKAHDBR13	Relax Hair Permanently
J7P3 04	6	10	SKACHB15	Develop, Enhance and Evaluate your Creative Hairdressing Skills
J7P6 04	7	12	SKAHDBRBNST3	Plan, Implement and Evaluate Promotional Activities
J7P5 04	6	8	SKAHDBRBNST2	Contribute to the Financial Effectiveness of the Business
J7P6 04	7	12	SKAHDBMN1	Plan, Prepare and Participate in Competitions in the Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Make-up and Nails Sectors
J7P7 04	7	12	SKAHDBRBNT1	Undertake Freelance Work

Preparing to assess the SVQ

This section offers practical advice on how to prepare for and begin assessing your candidates for the SVQ. This advice is offered as examples of good practice — you may develop your own approaches to assessing your candidates which also work well.

Your role and your candidate's role

Assessing the SVQ will involve several stages. Both you and the candidate should be clear on your roles in the assessment process before you begin.

Your role

- ◆ Ensure candidates understand what is to be assessed and how it is to be assessed.
- ◆ Ensure the conditions and resources required for assessment are available.
- ◆ Help candidates to identify and gather evidence.
- ◆ Observe and record candidates carrying out the activities described in the standards — records should say what has been observed, how it was carried out, and what it demonstrates.
- ◆ Assess products of the candidate's own work.
- ◆ Question candidates and record results.
- ◆ Help candidates to present evidence.
- ◆ Authenticate the evidence candidates provide.
- ◆ Judge evidence and make assessment decisions.
- ◆ Identify gaps or shortfalls in candidates' competence.
- ◆ Provide feedback to candidates throughout the assessment process.
- ◆ Record achievement.

Candidates' role

- ◆ Prepare for assessment — become familiar with the standards, what is to be assessed and how it is to be assessed.
- ◆ Help to identify sources of evidence and how these could be assessed.
- ◆ Carry out activities, and / or produce products of own work, and / or answer questions.
- ◆ Gather and present evidence.
- ◆ Receive and act on feedback from the assessor.

Candidate portfolio

Candidates undertaking an SVQ award in hairdressing or barbering will have access to an SQA-devised candidate portfolio which consists of a range of subject specific portfolios covering mandatory and optional NOS units which make up the SVQ qualification.

These portfolios are designed to be used as a tracking / recording document which the assessor and candidate must complete to maintain a robust record of achievement of knowledge and understanding and practical performance.

Candidate guidance

Candidates undertaking an SVQ award in hairdressing or barbering will also have access to an SQA-devised candidate guidelines document which will provide an overview of the SVQ award, the assessment methods and conditions, and documentation they will be required to complete to evidence their achievement and success.

Planning for assessment

Planning for assessment with the candidate is recommended to focus on what is being assessed, when and where, and to provide guidance on assessment methods and suitable timeframes. This will give the opportunity to record and evaluate progress at regular intervals.

The candidate should be familiar with the portfolio and understand the framework of the units and standard. Planning will allow for the opportunity of holistic assessment across multiple units where appropriate, reducing the burden of multiple assessments while reflecting current industry practice.

Holistic assessment

It is recognised that the SVQ qualification may be delivered within a range of different environments that may influence the opportunity for assessment such as commercial salons, training centres and further education colleges.

It is important that all candidates are given the opportunity to carry out their assessments within a realistic working environment, on commercial clients generating naturally occurring performance evidence which will support holistic assessment.

For example: a candidate who is providing a hair styling service for a client could generate performance evidence and cover the range requirements for several units such as consultation, health and safety, creatively colouring and creatively setting / styling and finishing the hair.

Another example of holistic assessment is provided within the following units which have been designed to co-exist alongside the majority of units within the hairdressing and barbering qualifications and should be assessed while performing practical hairdressing / barbering client services:

- ◆ J7N5 04 Consult, Assess, Plan and Prepare for Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Nails, Wellbeing and holistic Services.
- ◆ J7N7 04 Implement and Maintain Safe, Hygienic and Effective Working Practices.

Additional information on these units can be found further on in this document.

Assessment overview

Each portfolio within the award provides an overview of the standard and details of the assessment methods used to assess critical knowledge and understanding, practical performance and essential knowledge and understanding.

Assessment of critical knowledge and understanding

HABIA's assessment strategy sets out the knowledge and understanding within each unit which has been identified as critical and should be assessed under SQA-devised assessment methods and conditions.

SQA's digital assessment system SOLAR (Scottish On-Line Assessment Resources) will be used to assess the candidate's understanding of the critical knowledge requirements for each unit. The assessor is responsible for scheduling these online assessments and for providing the candidate with a secure 'Keycode' to access the system and run the test.

Solar Generic — refers to one overarching SQA-devised closed-book Solar assessment covering critical knowledge and understanding generic to all awards, standards, and units.

It is recommended that the Solar Generic assessment is completed before the assessment of any Solar Specific unit knowledge and before the final unit sign off.

Solar Specific — refers to a variety of individual SQA-devised closed-book Solar assessments covering critical knowledge and understanding specific to individual standards / units.

A minimum pass mark of 70% must be achieved for each Solar assessment. Although not mandatory, it is recommended as good practice to revisit any unachieved knowledge to review candidate understanding. This can be done via a discussion with the candidate and does not require any formal documentation.

Where a candidate fails to achieve a pass of 70% on any Solar assessment, they should be given the opportunity for re assessment in line with the centre's assessment policy.

Oral Questioning — refers to a variety of SQA-devised open-book oral assessments covering critical knowledge and understanding specific to individual standards. This will cover areas of critical knowledge identified in each unit overview which has not been assessed under closed-book Solar assessment. The evidence generated as a result of the oral questioning may arise from practical performance and must be recorded in the portfolio where indicated.

Assessment of performance and essential knowledge and understanding

*It is recognised that alternative forms of recording assessment evidence will evolve using information and communications technologies including e-portfolios. Regardless of the form of recording used, the guiding principle must be that information about practice must comply with legal requirements and best sector practice in relation to confidentiality. **All evidence** must also be traceable for internal and external verification purposes. Additionally, assessors must ensure they are satisfied the evidence presented is traceable, auditable, and authenticated and meets the requirements set out in this strategy (Habia Assessment Strategy 2023 section 3.2).*

The methods of assessment you use should generate sufficient evidence to demonstrate the candidate's competence. Assessment may involve a range of assessment methods. For SVQs, some of the most used methods are observation, product evidence, and questioning.

The Habia Assessment Strategy permits simulation within a limited number of assessments and is indicated in the relevant unit standard. Where simulation is permitted, the candidate must replicate the activity in a realistic working environment. Further information can be found in the following link:

[Assessment Strategy for SVQs in Hairdressing and Barbering at SCQF levels 5 and 6](#)

Further guidance on methods of assessment can be found in SQA's *Guide to Assessment* in the following link:

[SQA Guide to assessment](#)

Observation — Candidate performance should be reviewed against the relevant performance criteria and scope / range and should be observed by the assessor in a realistic working environment, generating naturally occurring evidence. Holistic and cross assessment is encouraged where appropriate to avoid the burden of over assessment on the candidate. There is no specified scope to cover the number of performances, however candidates must achieve the specified range as stipulated in each unit.

Post Service Evaluation — Candidates are required to provide a post evaluation of services for continuous improvement and development; this is indicated in the unit standard where applicable.

Technical Service Record — Candidates are required to provide a record of all technical services reflective of industry practice; this is indicated in the unit standard where applicable.

SQA have devised templates which candidates may find helpful to use when carrying out their post evaluation and / or recording the technical service details.

The use of these templates is optional as centres may devise their own methods for gathering evidence, for example, a reflective diary which can be recorded in a format of the candidate's / centre's choice, however, this should be accessible to all to avoid any disadvantage to the candidate.

Whichever method is used to record / document the post service evaluation, the evidence generated will be used to authenticate observation for the purpose of quality assurance.

Questioning — In some instances where performance criteria and / or range cannot be observed or assessed holistically, the use of oral questioning can be used to confirm understanding. This should be recorded in the format of the centre's choice and should be accessible to all to avoid any disadvantage to the candidate.

Professional discussion — A discussion between the assessor and candidate to ascertain knowledge and understanding which may not be observable via performance alone and can be used to support the assessment decision. The outcome of this should be recorded in the format of the centre's choice and should be accessible to all to avoid any disadvantage to the learner.

Supporting evidence — This can be any form of evidence such as but not limited to, photographs, videos, witness testimonies and audio recordings.

Tasks — A centre-devised assessment method such as projects, research activities, presentations et cetera.

Recording achievement

Using the portfolio

The portfolio is designed to be used as a tracking / recording document and the assessor must work in partnership with the candidate and support them in maintaining a robust record of achievement for each unit they study, ensuring they have produced sufficient evidence to achieve the award.

The following information contains excerpts from the portfolio and a short explanation on how each section should be completed.

Assessment methods and evidence keys

This table provides details of the SQA-devised evidence keys which should be recorded into the portfolio against the related criteria to confirm achievement at appropriate times throughout the duration of the unit. The table contains sample data.

Centres who choose to use their own centre-devised evidence key must record this in the table provided within the portfolio to ensure all evidence is appropriately referenced.

Assessment method	SQA Evidence key	Centre-devised Evidence key
Solar Generic closed-book	Solar Generic (SG)	Solar Generic (SG)
Solar Specific closed-book	Solar Specific (SS)	Solar Specific (SS)
Oral Questioning	OQ	OQ
Observation	OBS1; OBS2; OBS3....	
Technical Service Record	TSR1; TSR2; TSR3 ...	
Post Service Evaluation	PSE1; PSE2; PSE3....	
Tasks	T1; T2; T3....	
Supporting Evidence	SE1; SE2; SE3....	

Record of achievement of knowledge and understanding

This table should be used to record information relating to the candidate's achievement of knowledge and understanding for the specified unit. The table contains sample data.

Example of recording achievement of knowledge and understanding:

Evidence:	Solar Generic	Solar Specific	Tasks	Supporting evidence
Date:	1/2/23	1/3/23	T1	SE1
Assessor's initials:	DW	DW	CM	CM
IV's initials:	JS	JS	JS	JS

Knowledge and understanding (KU) requirements

This table contains information of the Knowledge and Understanding (KU) underpinning each unit. The example below provides details of how each critical KU point will be assessed by SQA-devised assessments and includes examples of how the non-critical KU could be evidenced by the centre. The table contains sample data.

Example of knowledge and understanding requirements and evidence key:

KU	Knowledge and understanding — What you need to know and understand:	Evidence key
KU6	The importance of recognising suspicious skin irregularities and scalp lesions, and referring to a relevant healthcare professional.	Solar Generic (SG)
KU7	The types and strengths of perming solutions used to curl the hair, and the adaptations required, in relation to: 7.1 hair curl classification. 7.2 hair condition. 7.3 state of hair. 7.4 scalp condition. 7.5 resistant hair. 7.6 chemically treated hair.	For example, T1
KU8	The chemical composition and pH of perming and neutralising products.	Solar Specific (SS)
KU9	The physiological effects of perming solutions and neutralisers have on the hair structure.	Solar Specific (SS)
KU10	The effects of alkaline and acid has on the hair cuticle.	Solar Specific (SS)

Recording of performance criteria and range in the portfolio

Performance overview — The performance overview table below should be completed to show the date, evidence keys and assessor initials, and where appropriate, internal verifiers initials for each assessed observation. The centre may choose to devise their own tracking keys. Any cross assessed units must be appropriately referenced for ease of tracking. The table contains sample data.

Observations:	1	2	3	4	5
Date:	1/3/23	5/3/23			
Evidence key:	OBS1 PSE1	OBS2 PSE2			
Assessor's initials:	CM	DW			
IV's initials:	JS	JS			

Performance criteria

It is recognised that the performance criteria will be assessed holistically over time, and it is expected that sufficient evidence will have been generated by the final observed performance. Only the final performance date should be recorded against the performance criteria. The table contains sample data.

PC	Performance requirements — What you will need to do:	Evidence key
PC4	Carry out a hair and scalp analysis, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 hair curl classification. 4.2 hair characteristics. 4.3 state of hair. 4.4 scalp condition. 4.5 percentage of white hair. 4.6 hair length. 4.7 direction of curl required. 4.8 degree of curl achievable. 	<i>Assessor/ candidate to insert the date of the final observed performance for example, 15/3/23</i>

Scope / Range

There are no set requirements for the number of performances, however this will be dictated by the scope / range and therefore the relevant observation key must be recorded against the range covered during each assessed performance. The tables contain sample data.

Scope / Range: Hair curl classification — two out of five to be evidenced through performance:	Evidence key
straight	OBS1
wavy	OBS2
curly	
tight curls	
combination	

Scope / range: Hair characteristics — all to be evidenced through performance.	Evidence key
hair density	OBS1, 2,
hair texture	OBS1, 2,
hair elasticity	OBS1, 2,
hair porosity	OBS1, 2,
hair growth patterns	OBS1, 2,

Access and storage

Candidates should be actively involved in completing their portfolio and therefore should have regular access enabling them to track their progress and achievements.

The portfolio contains evidence of assessment decisions, and it will be the centre's responsibility for ensuring its accuracy therefore, it is advisable that centres have procedures in place to have all candidate portfolios stored securely.

Individual unit guidance

Mandatory units common to all SVQ group awards

The following units are mandatory within all four SVQ hairdressing and barbering qualifications and coexist alongside almost all units within the group award:

- ◆ J7N5 04 Consult, Assess, Plan and Prepare for Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Nails, Wellbeing and holistic Services.
- ◆ J7N7 04 Implement and Maintain Safe, Hygienic and Effective Working Practices.

The **knowledge and understanding** requirements for these units underpins all other co-existing units and therefore it would be good practice for centres to factor in the delivery of the related health and safety and client consultation criteria at the start of the qualification alongside the relevant co-existing units.

The Solar Generic closed-book assessment will cover critical knowledge and understanding that is common to both units and all practical units as indicated in each standard.

Each unit also requires candidates to undertake a Solar Specific closed-book assessment covering critical knowledge and understanding specific to that unit.

The **performance criteria** and scope / range for both units should be evidenced over time through practical performance assessed within the related coexisting units.

Candidates progressing from SCQF level 5 to SCQF level 6

J7N5 04 and J7N7 04 are mandatory units within all SVQ group awards and therefore candidates who achieve the SVQ in Hairdressing or Barbering at SCQF level 5 will not be required to complete these units again at SCQF level 6 and will be accredited with a record of prior achievement.

Progressing from a lapsed SCQF level 5 award

Candidates progressing to the revised SCQF level 6 qualification who hold the SCQF level 5 qualification from the lapsed award will be required to complete both mandatory units.

Units with no critical knowledge and understanding assessment requirements.

The following units have no specified assessment requirements in reference to assessment of critical knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ J7P3 04 Develop, Enhance and Evaluate your Creative Hairdressing Skills.
- ◆ J7P4 04 Plan, Implement and Evaluate Promotional Activities.
- ◆ J7P5 04 Contribute to the Financial Effectiveness of the Business.
- ◆ J7P6 04 Plan, Prepare and Participate in Competitions in the Hair, Barbering, Make-up and Nail Sectors.
- ◆ J7P7 04 Undertake Freelance Work.

There are no Solar assessments attached to these units, however, evidence to authentic the achievement of all knowledge and understanding and performance criteria must be produced. The centre will be responsible for generating this evidence and can devise their own instruments of assessment in line with the unit / standard and use assessment methods to suit their candidates' needs.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)

The following units contain critical knowledge and understanding which may have been previously assessed within subject related units at SCQF level 5:

- ◆ J7NV 04 Creatively Colour and Lighten the Hair using Advanced Techniques.
- ◆ J7NW 04 Provide Colour Corrective Services.

Candidates who have achieved the unit J7NF 04 Colour and Lighten the Hair as a result of achieving the SQA Hairdressing or Barbering qualification at SCQF level 5 will only be required to provide responses to the Oral Questioning assessments for each unit at SCQF level 6. (please refer to Oral Questioning Assessment Overview).

Candidates at SCQF level 6 who have not previously achieved the unit J7NF 04 Colour and Lighten the Hair at SCQF level 5, will be required to undertake the Solar Specific assessments for each SCQF level 6 unit in addition to providing responses to the Oral Questioning assessments for the associated unit:

- ◆ J7NS 04 Creatively Set, Style, Dress and Finish Hair using Advanced Techniques.

Candidates who have achieved the unit J7ND 04 Set, Style and Dress Hair as a result of achieving the SQA Hairdressing qualification at SCQF level 5 will be awarded accreditation of prior learning for the critical knowledge and understanding requirements of J7NS 04 Creatively Set Style, Dress and Finish Hair using Advanced Techniques.

It is the centre's responsibility to check the validity of candidates' record of achievement of prior learning.

The use of simulation

The use of simulation to support evidence is permitted in the following units and should be agreed in advance by the assessor and candidate at the assessment planning stage. Further details can be found in each specified unit / standard.

- ◆ GV3V 23: SVQ in Hairdressing at SCQF level 6.
 - J7NS 04 Creatively Set, Style, Dress and Finish Hair using Advanced Techniques – one observation of performance on a mannequin head.
 - J7P3 04 Develop, Enhance and Evaluate your Creative Hairdressing Skills – permits the use of mannequin heads in the planning, preparation and development stages. The final design must be carried out on a live model.

For further information follow the link below to the Habia assessment strategy:
[Assessment Strategy for SVQs in Hairdressing and Barbering at SCQF levels 5 and 6](#)

Core Skills signposting

Core Skills signposting indicates if there are opportunities within units to develop Core Skills in the workplace to a specified SCQF level.

This signposting table on the SQA Accreditation web site can be used by providers and assessors to plan the development and assessment of Core Skills:

[SQA accreditation website — Workplace Core Skills table](#)

Solar Generic Assessment Overview

The Solar Generic closed-book assessment has been designed to assess critical knowledge and understanding (KU) common to a variety of units within the SVQ and SVQ hairdressing and barbering SCQF qualifications.

The following table provides an overview of the critical knowledge and understanding associated with each unit which will be assessed within the Generic Solar assessment:

SCQF level 6 Hairdressing and Barbering — SOLAR Generic knowledge and understanding (KU)

Generic knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units and KU points	Related barbering units and KU points
<p>Anatomy and physiology relevant to this standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the structure and function of the hair and the hair growth cycle. ◆ the structure and function of the skin. ◆ basic anatomical structure of the head, neck and shoulders. ◆ Relative and absolute contraindications and related pathologies. 	<p>All practical service units.</p>	<p>All practical service units.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the local authority's rules and conditions, licensing and / or registration requirements for yourself and your premises. ◆ the responsibilities under local authority licensing regulations for yourself and your premises. ◆ why you must comply with ethical practice and work within the legislative requirements. 	<p>J7N7 04: KU 2, 2.1, 3 J7N5 04: KU 2 J7NS 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NV 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NW 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NT 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NY 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7P1 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7P0 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7P2 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NX 04: KU 2, 2.1</p>	<p>J7N7 04: KU 2, 2.1, 3 J7N5 04: KU 2 J7NN 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7PB 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NM 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NV 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NK 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7P1 04: KU 2, 2.1 J7NX 04: KU 2, 2.1</p>

Generic knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units and KU points	Related barbering units and KU points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the importance to engage in, and document your continuous professional development to include, current up-to-date information, policies and best practice guidance. 	<p>J7N5 04: KU 3 J7NS 04: KU 3 J7NV 04: KU 3 J7NW 04: KU 3 J7NT 04: KU 3 J7NX 04: KU 3 J7NY 04: KU 3 J7P0 04: KU 3 J7P1 04: KU 3 J7P2 04: KU 3</p>	<p>J7N5 04: KU 3 J7NN 04: KU 3 J7PB 04: KU 3 J7NM 04: KU 3 J7NV 04: KU 3 J7NK 04: KU 3 J7NX 04: KU 3 J7P1 04: KU 3</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the legislative and insurance requirements for obtaining medical diagnosis and referral. ◆ why you must agree a service plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the relative and absolute contraindications relevant to hair services. — the importance of recognising suspicious skin irregularities and scalp lesions, and referring to a relevant healthcare professional. 	<p>J7N5 04: KU 6, 9.3 J7NS 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7NV 04: KU 5, 5, 6 J7NW 04: KU 5, 5, 6 J7NT 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7NY 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7P0 04: KU 5, 5.1 J7P1 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7P2 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7N7 04: KU 2 J7NX 04: KU 6</p>	<p>J7N5 04: KU 6, 9.3 J7NN 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7PB 04: KU 5, KU 5.1, 6 J7NM 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7NV 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7NK 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7P1 04: KU 5, 5.1, 6 J7N7 04: KU 2 J7NX 04: KU 6</p>

Generic knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units and KU points	Related barbering units and KU points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the legislative requirements for gaining, recording, storing, protecting and retaining the individual's data. ◆ the legislative and regulatory requirements of completing and storing the individual's service records. ◆ the legislative and indemnity requirements of gaining signed, informed consent for the service. 	<p>J7N5 04: KU 17, 21 J7N7 04: KU 2 J7NS 04: KU 37 J7NV 04: KU 35 J7NW 04: KU 45 J7NT 04: KU 30 J7NY 04: KU 41 J7P0 04: KU 33 J7P1 04: KU 38 J7P2 04: KU 29 J7NX 04: KU 39</p>	<p>J7N5 04: KU 17, 21 J7N7 04: KU 2 J7NN 04: KU 32 J7PB 04: KU 30 J7NM 04: KU 31 J7NV 04: KU 35 J7NK 04: KU 36 J7PF 04: KU 41 J7P1 04: KU 38 J7NX 04: KU 39</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ how to recognise trichorrhexis nodosa, the associated risks and action to take. 	<p>J7NS 04: KU 11 J7NV 04: KU 10 J7NX 04: KU 11 J7NY 04: KU 24 J7P0 04: KU 13 J7P1 04: KU 13</p>	<p>J7NV 04: KU 10 J7NX 04: KU 11 J7PF 04: KU 25 J7P1 04: KU 13</p>

Generic knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units and KU points	Related barbering units and KU points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the legal requirements for providing hair services to minors and vulnerable adults. 	<p>J7NS 04: KU 36 J7NV 04: KU 32 J7NW 04: KU 42 J7NT 04: KU 27 J7NY 04: KU 38 J7P1 04: KU 35 J7P2 04: KU 26 J7NX 04: KU 25</p>	<p>J7NV 04: KU 32 J7NK 04: KU 26 J7P1 04: KU 35 J7NX 04: KU 25</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the reasons for taking consensual visual media of the individual's treatment area and storing in accordance with the service, legislative, insurance and organisational requirements. 	<p>J7N7 04: KU 2 J7NS 04: KU 38 J7NV 04: KU 36 J7NW 04: KU 46 J7NT 04: KU 31 J7NX 04: KU 36 J7NY 04: KU 42 J7P0 04: KU 34 J7P1 04: KU 42</p>	<p>J7N7 04: KU 2 J7NN 04: KU 35 J7PB 04: KU 33 J7NM 04: KU 34 J7NV 04: KU 36 J7NK 04: KU 37 J7NX 04: KU 36 J7P1 04: KU 39</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ how to identify first signs of traction alopecia. 	<p>J7NS 04: KU 16 J7NX 04: KU 25</p>	<p>J7NX 04: KU 25</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the types and causes of hair loss. 	<p>J7NS 04: KU 17 J7NX 04: KU 24</p>	<p>J7NX 04: KU 24</p>

Generic knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units and KU points	Related barbering units and KU points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ how to recognise over processed hair, the associated risks and action to take. 	<p>J7NV 04: KU 9 J7NW 04: KU 9 J7NX 04: KU 10 J7NY 04: KU 23 J7P0 04: KU 12 J7P1 04: KU 11 J7P2 04: KU 10</p>	<p>J7NV 04: KU 9 J7NX 04: KU 10 J7P1 04: KU 11</p>

Solar Specific assessments overview

The Solar Specific closed-book assessments have been designed to assess critical knowledge and understanding (KU) relating to specific units within the SVQ hairdressing and barbering SCQF qualifications.

The following table provides an overview of the critical knowledge and understanding associated with each unit which will be assessed via individual Solar assessments:

SCQF level 6 Hairdressing and Barbering — SOLAR Specific knowledge and understanding (KU)

Specific knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU1: the importance of collaboration with competent professionals to support effective and safe working practices.</p> <p>KU11: how pregnancy can impact the service, and the importance of carrying out a risk assessment in accordance with legislative and insurance requirements.</p> <p>KU18: why certain services are prohibited or restricted for minors.</p> <p>KU19: the legislative requirements which sets out the rights of the individual and the professional.</p> <p>KU20: the legislative, insurance and organisational requirements for taking and storing visual media of the individual's treatment area.</p>	<p>J7N5 04 Consult, Assess, Plan and Prepare for Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Nails, Wellbeing and Holistic Services.</p>	<p>J7N5 04 Consult, Assess, Plan and Prepare for Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Nails, Wellbeing and Holistic Services.</p>

Specific knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU10: the hard surface disinfectants, to include:</p> <p>KU10.1: the chemical compositions and associated risks.</p> <p>KU10.2: how contact times impact the effectiveness.</p> <p>KU11: the causes and risks of microbial contamination and methods of infection prevention.</p> <p>KU12: the skin disinfectants, to include:</p> <p>KU12.1: the chemical compositions and associated risks.</p> <p>KU12.2: the impact on the pH scale and barrier function.</p> <p>KU12.3: how contact times impact the effectiveness.</p> <p>KU13: the causes, hazards of accidental exposure to clinical waste and how to respond.</p> <p>KU24: why you must source equipment and products compliant with legislative requirements and manufacturer instructions, to include:</p> <p>KU24.1: ensuring products sourced are for cosmetic use.</p> <p>KU24.2: avoiding the risk of toxicity.</p>	<p>J7N7 04 Implement and Maintain Safe, Hygienic, and Effective Working Practices.</p>	<p>J7N5 04 Implement and Maintain Safe, Hygienic, and Effective Working Practices.</p>

Specific knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU8: the physiological effects of colour and lightening products have on the hair structure.</p> <p>KU11: the importance of adhering to manufacturer instructions to prevent product incompatibilities and risks to health.</p> <p>KU13: how to identify natural pigment and undertones and how it impacts the product choice, to include:</p> <p>KU13.1: pre-lightening the hair.</p> <p>KU13.2: applying a neutralising colour toner.</p> <p>KU13.3: applying a creative colour toner.</p> <p>KU14: the types of peroxide strengths used in colouring and lightening services to include:</p> <p>KU14.1: when and why various peroxide strengths are used.</p> <p>KU21: the risks associated with colouring and lightening hair.</p> <p>KU30: the adverse reactions associated with a colouring and lightening service and how to respond.</p>	<p>J7NV 04 Creatively Colour and Lighten the Hair using Advanced Techniques.</p>	<p>J7NV 04 Creatively Colour and Lighten the Hair using Advanced Techniques.</p>

Specific knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU8: the physiological effects of colour and lightening products have on the hair structure.</p> <p>KU10: the importance of adhering to manufacturer instructions to prevent product incompatibilities and risks to health.</p> <p>KU14: how the type and distribution of melanin creates natural hair colour.</p> <p>KU15: how and why pre and post treatments should be used when carrying out colour correction services, to include:</p> <p>KU15.1: pre-softening the hair.</p> <p>KU15.2: pre-lightening the hair.</p> <p>KU15.3: applying a pre-pigmentation.</p> <p>KU15.4: applying a counteracting toner.</p> <p>KU16: the types of peroxide strengths used in colour correction services to include:</p> <p>KU16.1: when and why various peroxide strengths are used.</p> <p>KU19: the pH values of differing colouring products and lighteners.</p> <p>KU27: the importance of restoring the hair's pH following the colour and lightening service.</p> <p>KU30: the risks associated with colouring and lightening chemically treated hair.</p> <p>KU40: the adverse reactions associated with a colouring and lightening service and how to respond.</p>	<p>J7NW 04 Provide hair Colour Corrective Services.</p>	

Specific knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU8: the physiological effects of perming solutions and neutralisers have on the hair structure.</p> <p>KU9: the chemical composition and pH of perming and neutralising products.</p> <p>KU10: the effects of alkaline and acid has on the hair cuticle.</p> <p>KU27: the importance of using an anti-oxidant treatment on the hair to neutralise the active ingredient in perming products.</p> <p>KU28: the risks associated with perming and neutralising hair.</p>	<p>J7PF 04 Perm and Neutralise Hair.</p>	
<p>KU8: the types and associated risks of smoothing products linked with toxicity.</p> <p>KU9: the importance of adhering to manufacturer instructions to prevent product incapability's and risks to health.</p> <p>KU16: the physiological effects of hair smoothing products on the hair structure, to include:</p> <p>KU16.1: the adaptations required for white hair.</p> <p>KU18: the risks associated with smoothing chemically treated hair.</p>	<p>J7P0 04 Provide hair Smoothing Treatments.</p>	

Specific knowledge and understanding (KU)	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU4: the anatomy and physiology relevant to this standard. — relative and absolute contraindications and related pathologies.</p> <p>KU17: the physiological effects of permanent hair relaxing products on the hair structure, to include:</p> <p>KU17.1: the adaptations required for white hair.</p> <p>KU18: the active agents found in permanent hair relaxing products.</p> <p>KU19: the importance of using a pH restoring treatment on the hair to counteract the active agents in permanent hair relaxing products.</p> <p>KU20: the types and use of pre and post relaxing products, to include:</p> <p>KU20.1: the physiological effects on the hair structure.</p>	<p>J7P1 04 Relax Hair Permanently.</p>	<p>J7P1 04 Relax Hair Permanently.</p>

Oral Questioning assessment overview

The Oral Questioning open-book assessments have been designed to assess critical knowledge and understanding (KU) relating to specific units within the SVQ hairdressing and barbering SCQF qualifications.

The following table provides an overview of the critical knowledge and understanding associated with each unit which will be assessed via oral questioning:

SCQF level 6 Hairdressing and Barbering — Oral Questioning critical knowledge and understanding (KU)

Oral Questioning critical knowledge and understanding	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU21: the effects of humidity on the hair.</p> <p>KU22: the physiological changes to the hair structure during the setting process.</p>	<p>J7NS 04 Creatively Set, Style and Dress and Finish Hair using Advanced Techniques.</p>	
<p>KU24: how excessive tension during locking can damage the hair and scalp.</p>	<p>J7NX 04 Cultivate, Maintain and Repair Locks.</p>	<p>J7NX 04 Cultivate, Maintain and Repair Locks.</p>
<p>KU8: the importance of identifying the anatomical head and facial structures to choose the appropriate haircut and finish.</p>		<p>J7NK 04 Combine Barbering Cutting and Clipper Techniques to Create a Bespoke Restyled Look.</p>
<p>KU9: the anatomical head and facial structures and how they impact the facial hair cutting service.</p> <p>KU18: the associated risks from facial hair cuttings in close proximity of exposed skin.</p> <p>KU21: the importance of identifying associated risks when using a razor on the skin, to include:</p> <p>KU21.1: potential injuries.</p>		<p>J7NN 04 Design and Create Facial Hair Shapes using Advanced Techniques.</p>

Oral Questioning critical knowledge and understanding	Related hairdressing units	Related barbering units
<p>KU8: the anatomical head structures and how they impact the hair cutting service</p> <p>KU18: the importance of identifying the associated risks when using a razor on the skin, to include:</p> <p>KU18.1: potential injuries.</p>		<p>J7PB 04 Design and Create Hair Designs and Shapes in the Hair using Advanced Clipper and Razor Techniques.</p>
<p>KU9: the anatomical head and facial structures and how they impact the shaving service.</p> <p>KU16: the associated risks from hair shavings in close proximity of exposed skin.</p> <p>KU17: why it's important to identify associated risks when using a razor on the skin, to include:</p> <p>KU17.1: potential injuries.</p>		<p>J7NM 04 Provide Shaving Services using a Straight Razor with Single Use Blades.</p>

Reference list

SQA. (2023) Habia Assessment strategy 3.2 [Online]. Available from:
[Assessment Strategy for SVQs in Hairdressing and Barbering at SCQF levels 5 and 6](#)
[30 June 2023]