
Unit Specification

UHB221 – Cut men's hair

Unit reference number: R/617/1722

Level: 2

Guided Learning (GL) hours: 111

Overview

The aim of this unit is to develop learner's knowledge, understanding and 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.

Learners will need to maintain health, safety and hygiene salon procedures throughout the unit. Additionally, learners must maintain their personal appearance and demonstrate effective communication and consultation skills.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, learners will:

LO1 Be able to cut hair using basic techniques

LO2 Know how health and safety policies and procedures affect cutting services

LO3 Understand the factors that influence cutting services

LO4 Understand the tools, equipment and products used in basic barbering techniques

Unit content

LO1 Be able to cut hair using basic techniques

Prepare for cutting services

Taught content to include

- Preparation of learners should include:
 - Clean and hygienic appearance
 - Good communication and listening skills
 - Correct posture
- Preparation of the working area to include:
 - Chair and work area to be clean before the client arrives
 - Chair is positioned and adjusted correctly
 - Adequate work area to allow safe use of hair cutting equipment
 - Products on display to be clean of dust and hair
 - Tools and equipment to be clean and sterilised
 - Electrical equipment to be visually checked before use
 - All tools and equipment to be positioned for ease of use
- Preparation of the client to include
 - Clean protective garments for the client
 - Cutting collar/cape (if used)
 - Visual check of client's hair and scalp for signs of contra-indications, infections or infestations

Apply safe and hygienic methods of working throughout services

Taught content to include

- Ensuring that visual checks of the hair and scalp are carried out during consultation for anything that will limit the service
- Removing hair cuttings from the client's skin promptly to prevent discomfort or irritation to the client
- Clearing away/sweeping the hair from working area to prevent accidents by slipping on the hair
- Disposing of hair cuttings appropriately into correct receptacle
- Ensure all tools are handled and stored safely

Consult with clients to confirm the desired look

Taught content to include

- Consulting and confirming with the client before cutting hair commences to agree the chosen style/amount of hair to be cut
- Explaining each stage of the haircut to the client
- Confirm that the length and shape of the haircut to meet the client's requirements
- Adapt the haircut where appropriate
- Modify the haircut where appropriate e.g. to take into account a specific hair growth pattern

Select suitable products, tools and equipment

Taught content to include

- Products
 - Water spray, keeps hair damp during the haircut
 - Detangling solution, used to help detangle and prevent knotting during the haircut
- Tools
 - Scissors, used to remove length and bulk from the hair. Creates blunt, textured and/or tapered ends to the hair
 - Thinning scissors – removes bulk from the hair can help to produce texturised effects
 - Clippers, removes length from the hair and may be used for neckline shaping/tidying/fading
 - Clipper attachments/grades – added to the clippers allowing hair length to be shortened using different size grades
 - Razor – removes bulk from the hair
 - Combs – small tooth comb used to control the hair when cutting. Wider tooth combs can be used to detangle hair
 - Sectioning clips/clamps, (if required) used to keep accurate cutting lines by keeping uncut hair out of the way where hair is longer
- Equipment
 - Mirror, used to show the client the sides and back of the haircut or to confirm required length to be cut
 - Cape/gown used to protect client's outer garments from hair cuttings
 - Cutting collar/cape (if used) used to protect the neck area from hair cuttings
 - Neck brush, used to remove unwanted hair cuttings from around the client
 - Hand held hairdryer (if required) to dry/style hair or remove excess moisture from the hair

Carry out cutting services

Taught content to include

- Compare hair preparation methods suitable to achieve the desired style i.e. cutting hair wet or dry or both
- Choose the most appropriate methods of cutting hair depending upon the hair type, classification and characteristics as identified during consultation. To include:
- Cutting hair wet
 - Hair wet with water spray – quicker for the client but hair may not be clean, may not be evenly wet
 - Pre-shampooed and conditioned hair – clean hair to cut, hair fully returns to alpha-keratin state
 - Advantages of cutting hair wet – supports cleaner sectioning longer men's styles making hair easier to control, greater accuracy for precision cutting, guide lines more visible
 - Disadvantages of cutting hair wet – hair growth patterns less obvious, weight or bulk lines not visible, longer service time
- Cutting hair dry
 - Quick, easy cutting hair service for the client
 - Easier to see natural hair movement and fall
 - Able to accurately assess actual hair length and required amount to be cut

- Disadvantages of cutting hair dry – hair may not be clean, possible less control for longer men's styles, more static
- Choose the most appropriate methods of cutting hair depending upon the hair type, classification and characteristics as identified during consultation
- To include cutting techniques:
 - Club cutting:
 - Creates a blunt end to hair, used to remove length from the hair, used for precision cutting, retains hair bulk and weight in the hair
 - Freehand:
 - Cutting hair with no tension without holding the hair with the hand, fingers or tools. The hair is cut flat against the skin. Used to form outline shape around neck, ears or fringe area
 - Scissor over comb:
 - Hair supported by comb when cut with scissors. Often used for very short styles cut into nape/sides, shortens to less than finger depth. Used in men's haircut to blend layers
 - Clipper over comb:
 - Used on dry hair. Clippers are used in a similar technique to scissor over comb to achieve shorter styles
 - Thinning:
 - Using either thinning scissors or razor to remove bulk from thicker dense hair or to create a texturised effect on the hair
 - Fading:
 - Hair is removed to fade away to nothing using scissors or clipper over comb. Clippers without the addition of grades may also be used to achieve a cleaner result. Suitable for all hair types and can be used where there may be a difficult growth pattern around the hairline where hair requires removing
- Cutting all neckline shapes to include:
 - Tapered neckline – hair is cut very short and blended into neck-line following the growth pattern
 - Squared neckline – following the head shape, hair is combed flat to head and extra length is removed cutting straight along the neck area. The hair is shaped upwards towards the ears following the outline neck shape
 - Rounded neckline – following the head shape the hair is combed flat to head and extra length is removed cutting straight along the neck area. The hair is shaped upwards towards the ears removing straight corners to create a round finished effect following the contours of the head
- Cutting effects :
 - Uniform layer cut – hair is held at 90° from the scalp following the contours of the head using a club cutting technique. There are no weight lines. The outline hair is combed flat and cut freehand to neaten the ends and complete the shape around the face
 - Graduation haircut – this cut produces shorter internal layers at nape and sides of haircut with longer layers and weight in the hair at the top of the head. Hair is usually cut between 45° and 180° angles from base-line, short and long graduation haircut effects can be achieved
 - Flat top – 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 standing behind the client. Body position is then moved to the front and the top of the hair is

cut 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. Specific cutting of the top and upper sides follow to achieve an inclination and square effect. Adaptations of this haircut include:

- 'DA'
 - Horseshoe
 - High top fade
- Cutting adaptations:
 - Around ear outline – to continue the outline of the hairline shape. Move the ear with finger tips to expose the hair that requires cutting. Hold ear and use scissors or clippers to shape and remove the hair
 - Over the ear – to continue the outline shape. If the hair is longer than the ears, it can be cut freehand combing the hair downwards into place beforehand. If the hair is shorter on the ears hold the hair firmly between fingers and remove the length required
 - Eyebrow – long or unruly eyebrows can be removed by scissor or clipper over comb methods

Provide clients with advice and recommendations on the service(s) provided

Taught content to include

- Products to use
- Home care maintenance
- Discussing the client's needs and requirements for future services
- Discussing any limitations to the service
- Suggested interval between cuts
- Other offers or promotions

LO2 Know how health and safety policies and procedures affect cutting services

The responsibilities for health and safety in own role

Taught content to include

- Relevant legislation for consultation, client care, confidentiality and consumer/retail, for the country the qualification is taken, which includes: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), consumer rights, health and safety, equality. Health and safety regulations for the country where the qualification is taken, examples within the United Kingdom would include:
 - The Health and Safety at Work act
 - The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations
 - Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations
 - Electricity at Work Regulations
 - Reporting Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)
 - The Consumer Protection Act
 - The Trade Descriptions Act
 - Salon insurance requirements, employers liability, public liability, professional indemnity
- Responsibilities for health and safety to include:
 - The reasons why all staff working in the salon have a responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others
 - The salon safety regulations to ensure their actions do not put others at risk, which includes all staff, clients and visitors
- Additional factors will include:
 - The reasons why it is important to accurately describe the features and benefits of products and services
 - The reasons and importance for gaining client consent
 - The maintenance of the salon environment including:
 - The comfort of the salon
 - Cleanliness of the salon to prevent cross infections via direct or indirect contact
 - Provisions and use of workplace equipment – using only products, tools and equipment trained to use
 - Reasons for personal protective equipment (PPE) e.g. using garments/gown for clients when cutting men's hair
 - Making visual checks on all electrical equipment and reporting faults/isolating power e.g. hand held hairdryer used to remove excess moisture or style the finished cut
 - Ensuring manufacturers' instructions are always followed when using products and equipment that are used associated to the men's cutting service
 - Responsibilities of reporting certain work-related incidents or accidents, diseases and dangerous occurrences to a senior staff member
 - Ensuring the public are protected from the manufacturer of supplied unsafe goods or misleading price indications
 - Prevent a false trade description to any goods that are supplied or offered to supply any goods to which a false trade description has been applied, or false statement about the provision of any service
 - Ensure that all personal client data records remain safe and confidential
 - Update client records following services
 - Disposing of waste and hair cuttings hygienically and appropriately

The potential hazards and possible risks that may occur in the workplace and affect services

Taught content to include

- Hazards – anything that has the potential to cause harm, e.g. unprotected scissors left open when not cutting
- Risks – a chance, high or low, that harm caused by the hazard may occur, e.g. potential to cut clients or own skin
- Working safely throughout the cutting service, an example may include ensuring there is adequate room around the client and no obstructions
- Ensuring use and maintenance of any equipment is monitored e.g. conduct visual checks e.g. ensuring any obstructions are removed before cutting and that the seat is at correct height
- Ensuring the client is comfortable and free from harm throughout the service e.g. removing jewellery that may restrict movement whilst cutting
- Disposing of waste appropriately to minimise risk of cross-infection and ensure there is no unnecessary risk to the environment, e.g. remove hair cuttings from the floor immediately after the cutting service
- Correct handling and storage of all products, tools and equipment as applicable to the country the qualification is being taken in
- The course of action to be taken when accidentally cutting own or clients skin:
 - Cut own skin – stop immediately, clean wound, apply pressure to stop bleeding and apply a plaster
 - Cut client's skin – stop immediately, provide sterile cloth to client to hold against the cut skin, provide plaster for client to apply. Stylist to wash hands to remove blood from own skin, stylist to wear gloves if applying plaster to client cut
- The importance of ensuring a thorough visual check of the hair and scalp is performed prior to the service to prevent cross infection e.g. ensuring the scalp is not tender when combing hair for sectioning prior to cutting
- Risk of electric shock when using electrical equipment to enhance the service to include potential hazards of trailing wires
- Fire – the salon's policy in the outcome of a fire and where the assembly point is
- The need to ensure personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements are followed

The safe and hygienic working methods and practices that must be followed throughout the services

Taught content to include

- The use of clean towels and gowns for all clients
- The use of clean and sterile tools and equipment for all clients
- The safe work practices and use of tools and equipment to include:
 - Prevention of cross infection e.g. covering any open cuts
 - The need to be organised and ready to undertake a men's hair cutting service
 - The maintenance of tools and equipment e.g. cleaning clippers after each use
 - Avoidance of trailing wires
 - Avoidance from water sprays and cuttings on the floor
 - The need to store sharp objects safely e.g. return scissors to closed case after use
- Protecting the client's scalp when using electrical equipment
- Apply heat protectors (where required) to the hair when using electrical equipment e.g. when styling men's hair
- Organisation of working area

The importance of questioning clients prior to and during services

Taught content to include

- Understanding what the client wants and their expectations of the chosen cut and finished style
- To ensure the amount of hair to be cut is agreed
- To provide the opportunity for the client to ask questions
- To check that the client is comfortable
- To ensure the client understand the process
- To gain information on how they maintain their hair, lifestyle and commitment to the style
- To ensure the client's expectations are met
- The legal significance of client questioning and the recording of client's responses to questioning

The importance of preventing cross-infection and cross-infestation

Taught content to include

- Avoidance of cross-contamination e.g. using unclean tools from one client could contaminate the next client's hair or scalp
- Ensure the professional salon image is maintained
- The contra-indications to cutting to include:
 - Adverse skin conditions
 - Bacterial, viral or fungal infections
 - Bacterial infection examples include:
 - Impetigo – begins as blisters that itch, then fill with a yellowish-brown fluid, that once rupture becomes a flat crust
 - Folliculitis – infection of the hair follicle, causes bumps with pus. May be painful, itchy, sore or swollen
 - Viral infection examples include:
 - Herpes simplex, a raised red blister full of fluid. It will usually be painful and tender to the touch
 - Warts, small, fleshy, grainy bumps usually flesh-coloured, white, pink or tan. Rough to the touch and can be sprinkled with black pinpoints, which are small, clotted blood vessels
 - Fungal infection example include:
 - Ringworm – depends where it appears but may be red, itchy, scaly, or raised patches that develop blisters or begin to ooze. Patches that may be redder on the outside edges creating a 'ring' effect
 - Infestation/parasites:
 - Head lice – are tiny grey/brown insects. Head lice cling to hairs but stay close to the scalp which they feed off. Head lice lay eggs which hatch after 7 to 10 days. It takes about 7 to 10 days for a newly hatched louse to grow into an adult and start to lay eggs known as nits. Nits are the empty yellow-white eggshells which are left when the lice hatch. Nits look like dandruff but stick strongly to hair
 - Scabies – itchy skin condition causing a rash which may cause tiny blisters or sores where mites have burrowed into the skin
- Hair defects, including:
 - Trichorrhexis nodosa – hair which breaks easily. Symptoms can include patches of hair loss or extremely short hair that appears not to grow. The hair shaft has thickened or thinned areas or has excessively split ends with discolouration.
 - Monilethrix – is a condition that affects hair growth. Its most characteristic feature is that individual strands of hair have a beaded appearance that results in short, fragile and broken hair
- The course of action to be taken if contra-indications are suspected to include:
 - The limits and boundaries of duties
 - Not to offer diagnosis
 - Which conditions need reporting and when
 - Who to report to and where to record the findings
 - Referral for medical attention or advice

LO3 Understand the factors that influence cutting services

The factors that influence cutting services

Taught content to include

- Hair classification

Hair classifications table			
Type 1: Straight hair	1A - Fine/thin	1B - Medium	1C - Coarse
	Straight	Straight with volume	Straight difficult hair
Type 2: Wavy hair	2A - Fine/thin	2B - Medium	2C - Coarse
	'S' pattern	Frizzy 'S' pattern	Very frizzy 'S' pattern
Type 3: Curly hair	3A - Fine/thin	3B - Medium	3C - Coarse
	Soft curl	Loose curl	Tight curl
Type 4: Very curly hair	4A - Fine/thin	4B - Medium	4C - Coarse
	Tight coiled curl pattern	'Z' pattern and spring curl	Tight 'Z' pattern

- Hair characteristics and clients features to include:

- Density – this is defined as the number of hairs on the scalp and will affect the choice of tools and products used and the time of the service
- Texture – the circumference of an individual strand of hair. Hair can be fine, medium or coarse. Coarse hair has the largest circumference, and fine hair the smallest. Texture may affect the porosity of the hair
- Porosity – this relates to the condition of the cuticle. Porosity levels are caused by both chemical and physical damage. Cuticles which are raised and feel rough, are known as porous and will absorb water and products more easily and unevenly when applying finishing products after cutting men's hair e.g. hair tonics
- Elasticity – this relates to the condition of the cortex layer of the hair. Elasticity levels are affected by how the hair is treated and its general condition. Hair should stretch and return to its normal size, this indicates the hair is in good condition hair and no damage to the cortex. If hair stretches and snaps or does not return to its original length this indicates internal damage to the cortex
- Growth patterns – this relates to the direction the hair grows from the scalp and may influence the desired finish. Selection of appropriate cutting techniques may help overcome a difficult growth pattern
- Head and face shape and size – this relates to the overall shape and size of the client's head and includes any specific features. When haircutting, it is important to ensure that the client has a style they can manage and which suits their overall appearance
- Lifestyle – this is about the client's everyday activities and working patterns
- Hair length – this will affect the general condition of the hair
- Piercings – can be a possible obstruction when cutting, mostly those found around the ears or eyebrows

The ways of dealing with any influencing factors

Taught content to include

- How hair classifications and characteristics may influence the cutting methods and techniques employed:
 - Club cutting
 - Creates a blunt end to hair, used for precision cutting, retains hair bulk and weight, used for both curly and straight hair types
 - Freehand
 - Cutting hair with no tension without holding the hair with the hand, fingers or tools – suitable for most hair types. Removes length
 - Scissor over comb
 - Hair supported by comb when cut with scissors. Produces a layered effect. Often used for very short styles cut into nape/sides. This method shortens the hair to less than finger depth, and is usually cut to head shape/size. Also used for blending layers
- Growth patterns
 - Ensuring the hair growth pattern has been accounted for prior to cutting, e.g. the hair may need extra length to weigh it down, or, cut shorter to remedy the issue
 - Ensuring the natural fall of the hair is accounted for prior to and during the cutting service
- Density – the amount of hair on the scalp will influence the cutting method used, e.g. hair that is fine in appearance may require club cutting to help give an overall thicker appearance
- Texture – as an example, coarse straight hair may require different cutting techniques e.g. texturising around the hairline for a softer finish
- Porosity – this will influence the overall expected hair cut finish. When the hair is porous a cut will help improve the overall appearance and improve the hairs' ability to accept other services
- Elasticity – cutting may help to improve the overall condition of the hair if there is signs of damage
- Head and face shape and size – as an example, a client with a long face may not require height on the crown or a client with a high forehead may be best suited to a longer fringe effect haircut
- Lifestyle – will influence the longevity or suitability of a finished style
- Hair length – the expectations of the client about either the amount of hair to be removed or the expected new style can be influenced by the hair length in order to achieve a realistic outcome
- Piercings which may require removing when cutting men's hair specifically around the ears or eyebrows

The average rate of hair growth per month

Taught content to include

- Half an inch or 1.25cm per month

The known causes and typical patterns of male pattern baldness

Taught content to include

- Known causes:
 - Genetic
 - Hereditary
- Typical male pattern baldness patterns:
 - Receding hair line around temples/front hairline
 - Thinning hair
 - Bald areas around the crown

LO4 Understand the tools, equipment, products and techniques used in basic barbering techniques

The importance of preparing the hair prior to cutting

Taught content to include

- The importance of preparing the hair prior to cutting to include:
 - Checking for piercings that may inhibit the service
 - Checking the hair and scalp for signs of contra-indications, infections or infestations
 - Checking the scalp for cuts, sores and abrasions
 - Checking the growth patterns/natural fall of the hair
 - Checking hair for influencing factors
- Following the shampoo or wetting the hair (if applicable) check hair for:
 - Natural movement
 - Hair growth pattern/movement or male pattern baldness
 - Partings
 - Elasticity

The tools, equipment and products available and the effects they achieve

Taught content to include

- Tools:
 - Scissors
 - Used to remove length and bulk, creates blunt, textured and/or tapered end to the hair
 - Maintain by removing loose hair, wipe clean, sterilise, stored in appropriate pouch, and sharpened if required, only use for cutting hair
 - Razors
 - Used to remove bulk from coarse or thick hair or to add texture or taper the ends of the hair
 - Maintain by disposing of blade in sharps/appropriate dispenser. Avoid touching the blade
 - Thinning scissors
 - Thinning scissors can help to blend haircuts or reduce bulk from thicker coarse hair. The scissors possess a number of teeth that allow them to cut some but not all strands of hair and the effect is to thin out the hair
 - Cutting comb(s)
 - Used to detangle hair, support hair when cutting, create sections, control hair when cutting
 - Maintain by cleaning comb of hair clippings, wash and place in sterilising solution, dry before use and place in a clean receptacle/area
 - Sectioning clips
 - Used for longer men's hair (where appropriate) to keep hair out of the way to aid sectioning for cutting lines or angles
 - Maintain by cleaning sectioning clips of hair clippings, place in sterilising solution, wash and dry, store on clean receptacle/area

- Cutting collar/cape (if used)
 - Used to protect neck area from hair clippings
 - Maintain by wiping clean, store at work station or clean trolley
- Back mirror
 - Used to show client the sides and back of the haircut
 - Maintain by cleaning for smear free reflection, store at workstation
- Neck brush
 - Soft brush that removes excess hair from clients neck, and shoulders
 - Maintain by washing in warm soapy solution, rinse and dry thoroughly before use
- Products:
 - Water spray
 - Use to keep hair damp during the haircut
 - Maintain by refreshing water
 - Detangling solution
 - Used to prevent knotting during the haircut
 - Maintain by ensuring product bottle is clean after use, replaced in storage
- Equipment:
 - Hand held dryer
 - Used to dry or remove excess moisture after cutting
 - Maintain as per manufacturers' instructions, ensure air filter is cleaned regularly
 - Clippers
 - Used to remove length from the hair, clean and remove hair from outside the hairline
 - Maintain by removing haircutting after every use. Realign blades and oil as per manufacturers' instructions. Place protective cover across cutting edge when not in use
 - Clipper attachments/grades
 - Attached to clipper and available in different sizes remove length from the hair, clean and remove hair from outside the hairline
 - Used to vary the length that can be achieved on the hair when attached to clippers e.g.:
 - Grade 1 – 3mm
 - Grade 2 – 6mm
 - Grade 3 – 9mm
 - Grade 4 – 12mm
 - Grade 5 – 15mm
 - Grade 6 – 18mm
 - Grade 7 – 21mm
 - Grade 8 – 24mm
 - Maintain by wiping clean, place in sterilising solution, wash and dry, store in a clean container

The importance of applying correct techniques during services

Taught content to include

- Working with the natural fall/movement of the hair including hair partings
- Weight distribution of the hair to ensure the expected shape can be achieved
- Adapting cutting methods where needed to take into account any specific hair growth patterns e.g. cow lick, nape whorl
- Using the correct cutting method(s) for hair type and classification including:
 - Club cutting
 - Freehand
 - Scissor over comb
 - Clipper over comb
 - Thinning
- Using the correct cutting method(s) to achieve the desired style
- Using correct sectioning
- Holding the hair at the correct tension
- Using correct angles when cutting examples include:
 - Uniform layer – hair is held at 90° even weight distribution throughout, cut with scissors or clippers
 - Long graduation/square layer – hair held at a range of angles over 90°-180° depending on the degree of graduation required
 - Short graduation – hair held up to 45° angles
 - Flat top – the exact length required is dependent on length or hair at start of cut, skull shape and the style of flat top

The importance of using products cost effectively

Taught content to include

- To save the salon's profits
- To achieve the best results
- To meet sustainability

The importance of providing clients with advice and recommendations on the service(s) provided and products available

Taught content to include

- Time interval for returning to salon to maintain the style
- To help clients achieve the required result at home
- The reasons for using specific products at home
- Reputation and walking advertisement for the salon
- Suggesting other services to enhance the style

Unit requirements

Learners are required to complete all assessment requirements related to this unit:

1. Service portfolio

1. Service portfolio

Learners must produce a service portfolio which is required to be completed under the supervision of a lecturer who must monitor the quality of the services performed throughout the learners' training.

The performance of learning outcome 1 must be demonstrated as part of all technical observations and will be recorded on **at least six observations**. This must be conducted on a range of new and existing clients and include the following cutting styles: uniform layer, flat top, short graduation and long graduation. In this unit, razors will only be used for removing unwanted hair outside the outline shape.

A style collection of before and after photographs of each observation must be produced to be sampled by the external examiner.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v1	01/08/2018	First Published	Qualifications Manager
v2	14/02/2019	Update to ITEC branding as primary colour and logo	Qualifications Administrator