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# Qualification Specification

BT5A2 – VTCT (ITEC) Level 5 Award in  
Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration

610/1643/3

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# About VTCT

VTCT is the UK's market-leading specialist vocational and technical awarding organisation for beauty, medical aesthetics, complementary therapies, sports and active fitness, as well as a number of other sector areas including learning and development, early years education, health and social care and hospitality and catering.

VTCT is regulated by the Office for Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) which is a non-ministerial UK government department reporting directly to parliament. VTCT is also regulated by governments in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and is recognised by many government authorities globally for the award of qualifications aligned with national qualifications frameworks.

Our qualifications are delivered under three brands, VTCT, ITEC and Skillsfirst, offered in 50 countries around the world and more than 2,500 approved centres, to more than 120,000 learners every year.

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# 1. Qualification at a glance

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Qualification title</b>            | VTCT (ITEC) Level 5 Award in Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration  |
| <b>Qualification number</b>           | 610/1643/3   |
| <b>Product code</b>                   | BT5A2  |
| <b>First registration date</b>        | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022  |
| <b>Age range</b>                      | 18+  |
| <b>Total Qualification Time (TQT)</b> | 79   |
| <b>Guided Learning (GL) hours</b>     | 21   |
| <b>Assessment</b>                     | <p>To be awarded this qualification, learners must successfully achieve the following assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practical Examination</li><li>• Theory Examination</li><li>• Case Studies</li></ul> |
| <b>Overall qualification grading</b>  | <p>The overall qualification is graded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fail/Pass/Merit/Distinction</li></ul>  |
| <b>Entry requirements</b>             | <p>Learners are required to hold a Level 3 qualification in anatomy and physiology and a level 4 qualification in micropigmentation.</p>   |

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## 2. Purpose Statement

### 2.1 Who is this qualification for?

The VTCT (ITEC) Level 5 Award in Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration is a beauty aesthetic qualification aimed at level 4 qualified practitioners aged 18 and over, who wish to add micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration to their repertoire of treatment offerings.

Learners are required to hold a level 3 anatomy and physiology qualification and a level 4 micropigmentation qualification or equivalent.

### 2.2 What does this qualification cover?

This qualification is informed by employers and national and international standards for aesthetic beauty and includes all the required elements to work effectively as a fully commercial camouflage and restoration micropigmentation practitioner.

Learners must achieve the mandatory unit:

- Provide micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration

Throughout this qualification, learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of relevant requirements, regulations and safe practice treatment protocols for micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration. Learners will also develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to consult with clients, and provide specific aftercare and home care advice.

### 2.3 What could this qualification lead to?

The primary purpose of this qualification is to prepare learners for employment or self-employment in the beauty aesthetic industry providing micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration. Additionally, learners may choose to further develop their knowledge and skills by completing additional specialist qualifications at Level 4 and 5, including:

- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Skin Peeling
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Skin Needling
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Ultrasound
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Certificate in Skin Peeling
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Certificate in Skin Needling
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Certificate in Ultrasound
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Dermaplaning
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Scalp Micropigmentation Treatments
- VTCT (ITEC) Level 5 Certificate in Laser Tattoo Removal

For more qualifications, please see the VTCT and ITEC websites.

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## 3. Qualification structure

To be awarded the VTCT (ITEC) Level 5 Award in Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration learners must achieve:

- The mandatory unit
- All case studies
- Practical Examination
- A pass grade in the theory examination\*

\*Please note all case studies must be completed and marked as achieved (Pass) **before** the learner can be entered for examination.

The minimum TQT required to achieve this qualification is **79**

| VTCT product code | Unit title   | Level | GL | Unit reference number |
|-------------------|--|-------|----|-----------------------|
| Mandatory units   |  |       |    |                       |
| UBT447            | Provide micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration | 5     | 21 | A/650/4599            |

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## 4. Centre requirements

### 4.1 Approval and recognition

For existing centres, this qualification is part of the beauty aesthetics qualification suite. Approval to deliver this category of qualification must be sought using the Approval Application – Level 4 and 5 Advanced Aesthetic Therapies Qualifications Form and will be subject to an approval visit for which a fee will be charged in line with published fees.

New centres that intend to deliver this qualification must gain both centre approval and qualification category approval. Please go to the VTCT or ITEC websites for further information or email:

[qualityassurance@vtct.org.uk](mailto:qualityassurance@vtct.org.uk)

### 4.2 Resources

Centres must have the physical resources needed to support the delivery of the qualification. Specific resources required for this qualification should include (but are not limited to):

- a minimum of 1 couch and 1 trolley per learner
- products, materials and equipment as appropriate to class numbers in order to practice sufficiently to meet relevant learning outcomes and assessment criteria in the qualification

It is the centre's responsibility to ensure:

- all equipment used conforms to any applicable safety standards
- products used are those approved for cosmetic use by practitioners
- adequate insurance is in place, for teaching the specific aesthetic beauty treatment, including practical treatment cover for all learners, staff and clients.

### 4.3 Teaching staff

In order to deliver this qualification, teaching staff must:

- be occupational experts and have knowledge and understanding in the specific discipline of the qualification being delivered. This knowledge must be at the same level as, or higher than the training being delivered
- hold an appropriate qualification or accredited training in the subject to be taught. In the absence of a regulated qualification, staff members will be required to demonstrate Continued Professional Development (CPD) with an accredited training provider. Within 18 months of delivering a regulated qualification in the discipline, staff should achieve the regulated qualification themselves.
- understand the qualification's structure and content, and the learning outcomes they are delivering
- have relevant and current industry experience in the specific area they are delivering
- have experience of teaching and/or providing training
- regularly undertake activities which contribute to their Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

## 4.4 Centre-based assessors

A centre-based assessor/tutor will assess and mark the case studies as either Pass or Refer. The VTCT (ITEC) External Examiner or External Moderator will verify a sample, either in situ or remotely on e-portfolio.

If the centre is deemed to be low-risk by their VTCT (ITEC) External Quality Assurer or Examiner and the centre is approved for remote practical moderation; centre-assessors will also be involved in the assessment of the practical examination, which is graded Pass/Merit/Distinction.

The centre assessors must ensure assessment decisions are consistently applied and that learners' work is to the required standard. Each assessor's work will be checked and confirmed by the VTCT (ITEC) External Quality Assurer (EQA) for the Centre. Assessment decisions must be standardised to ensure that all learners' work has been assessed to the same standard and is fair, valid and reliable.

## 4.5 Total Qualification Time (TQT)

TQT is defined by regulators as the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.

TQT is comprised of the following two elements:

- the number of hours which VTCT (ITEC) has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning, and
- an estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed – but, unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training

The TQT for this qualification is detailed in Section 3 of this specification.



## 5. Assessment

### 5.1 Summary of assessment methods

This qualification comprises internal and external assessments. Learners must achieve the assessments detailed in the table below.

| Assessment method                    | Overview of controls   |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Theory examination<br>(UBT447)       | Externally set and externally marked examination. The examination assesses knowledge and understanding from Learning Outcomes (LO) LO1 and LO2 of the mandatory treatment-specific unit, at the end of the period of learning.   |
| Case Studies                         | Externally set and internally marked. Treatment practice, conducted as individual case studies does not contribute to the overall grade, but contributes to the assessment outcome and portfolio of evidence for the qualification. This is a prerequisite evidence requirement, which must be completed prior to learners undertaking the final practical assessment. |
| Practical Examination<br>(BT5A2.PE1) | The practical examination is a terminal assessment that assesses the learner's technical skills and abilities from LO3 and LO4 of the mandatory treatment specific unit.   |

Pre-examination assessment materials are available to download from the VTCT and ITEC websites. See Appendix 1 for detailed information on assessment controls.

### 5.2 Unit assessment methods

The table below identifies the assessment methods used to assess the mandatory unit.

| Unit product code | Case Studies | Theory Examination | Practical Examination |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| UBT447            | ✓            | ✓                  | ✓                     |

### 5.3 Contribution of assessment to the overall qualification grade

Only the external theory examination and the practical examination contribute to the overall grade of the qualification. The table below outlines the grading model for each assessment method and the contribution of each to the overall qualification grade.

| Assessment method     | Grades Available               | Contribution to the qualification grade |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Theory Examination    | Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction | 50%                                     |
| Case Studies          | Pass/Refer                     | Achievement Requirement                 |
| Practical Examination | Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction | 50%                                     |

## 5.4 Theory Examination

Theory examinations are externally set and externally marked by VTCT (ITEC).

The specification for the external theoretical examination is detailed below.

| Theory examination (UBT447)                 |  |
|---|--|
| Availability (Exam sessions)                | To be taken on demand as agreed by the awarding organisation.<br>Available to sit online.              |
| Grading                                     | Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction   |
| Units covered                               | UBT447 – Provide micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration                                      |
| Contribution to overall qualification grade | 50%  |
| Type of examination                         | Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) to cover the assessment criteria within the unit for LO1 and LO2 only. |

Examinations must be undertaken by learners under controlled examination conditions in accordance with VTCT's policies and procedures for external assessment.

### 5.4.1 Retaking external theory examinations

Learners who fail to achieve the required grade are permitted to re-sit after having sufficient teaching and additional study time. There is no limit to the number of retakes a learner undertake.

### 5.4.2 Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Information on the reasonable adjustments allowed for the external examinations within this qualification can be found in the Policies section on the VTCT website and ITEC websites.

### 5.4.3 Practical Examination

The content of LO3 and LO4 are covered by a practical examination and case studies.

Practical examinations are externally set, externally examined, graded and quality assured by VTCT. Information on how to operate practical examinations can be found on the VTCT and ITEC websites.

In preparation for the external practical examination, centres are advised to ensure learners have carried out a series of clinical case studies comprising of complete practical treatments, in accordance with the awarding organisation's marking criteria, which must be observed and marked by the centre lecturer/assessors. All treatments must be deemed commercially acceptable by the centre lecturer/assessors.

It is essential centres use the Practical Assessment Criteria document in order to make assessment judgments when preparing for examinations. This can be found on a secure portal area on the VTCT and ITEC websites.

The Practical Examination must take place under controlled conditions, in a realistic working environment on a real client and in a commercially acceptable time frame for the practical treatment being examined.

| <b>Practical Examination (BT5A2.PE1)</b>           |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Availability</b>                                | To be scheduled through the VTCT (ITEC) booking system. This will be conducted by an in-person External Examiner. |
| <b>Grading model</b>                               | Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction  |
| <b>Units covered</b>                               | UBT447 – Provide micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration   |
| <b>Contribution to overall qualification grade</b> | 50%   |
| <b>Type of assessment</b>                          | Observation of practical client treatment   |

#### 5.4.4 Case Studies

Case studies are an evidence requirement which must be completed prior to learners undertaking the final practical examination. The case studies can be evidenced from the treatments conducted during training. They do not need to be additional to the treatments completed during training. Each treatment delivered should be documented as an individual case study.

The number of case studies to be carried out and evidenced in the portfolio is stated within the unit specifications. These can be found on the VTCT and ITEC websites on the relevant qualification page.

Case studies can be used to prepare learners for the practical examination and the theoretical examination. The purpose of the case study portfolio is to evaluate learner performance and use the information gathered to shape and improve learners' skills in preparation for the practical examination. Centres should also consider the use of formative self and peer assessment as part of the learning journey.

Whilst the case studies do not contribute to the overall grade, they will be marked pass or refer by the centre assessor and sampled by the external quality assurer (EQA).

### 5.4.5 Practical assessment criteria for case studies

This information is for reference only, the case study documentation can be downloaded from the VTCT and ITEC websites.

| Assessment for Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Assessment Criteria – The learner has:   | P | R |
| Prepared self, client and area for treatment in line with health and safety protocols and legislation, ensured that all resources were ergonomically positioned and treatment area was well lit and magnified.         |   |   |
| Performed a full consultation, checked that all relevant tests had been performed and the results of the tests, and checked contra-indications to confirm the client is suitable for treatment.                        |   |   |
| Discussed and confirmed the management of pain relief options.   |   |   |
| Used a range of communication skills, discussed and confirmed realistic and achievable treatment objectives and the likely healing process and associated timeframes.  |   |   |
| Discussed possible contra-actions and checked the client's understanding regarding the importance of adherence to aftercare protocols and future treatments.   |   |   |
| Provided information regarding the 'cooling off period' and obtained the client's signed informed consent to proceed with the treatment.   |   |   |
| Discussed, selected, agreed and prepared appropriate pigments/lakes, recorded all colour(s), batch numbers, expiry dates, ratios and dilutants in line with manufacturer protocols.                                    |   |   |
| Performed skin sensitivity tests and visual examination of the condition and health of the client's skin to establish the skin type, characteristics and condition and confirm the client's suitability for treatment. |   |   |
| Applied topical anaesthetic/numbing to the area for the recommended time frame and recorded all details.   |   |   |
| Demonstrated pre-treatment cleansing, drew and agreed a template where appropriate and gained written/signed client consent for the treatment to proceed and photographs of the treatment area being taken.            |   |   |
| Taken pre-treatment photographs and where applicable post template photographs and discussed, agreed and confirmed with the client making adjustments where needed.  |   |   |
| Selected, checked and prepared the appropriate needle/cartridge configurations and recorded all configurations, batch numbers and expiry dates. Loaded and adjusted needle depth correctly.                            |   |   |
| Positioned client and self appropriately for the treatment, ensured full support and access to the treatment areas to minimise risk of strain or injury.   |   |   |

| Assessment for Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Assessment Criteria – The learner has:  | P | R |
| Performed a safe, effective micropigmentation treatment and used and adapted implantation techniques and effects to achieve the desired outcome.  |   |   |
| Monitored the treatment area and checked both client wellbeing and effectiveness of implantation throughout the treatment, gave reassurance or took breaks as necessary.                |   |   |
| Worked to a commercially acceptable time and completed the treatment in line with treatment objectives, removed excess pigment/lake and applied post treatment products as recommended. |   |   |
| Demonstrated safe disposal of sharps, products, equipment, consumables and contaminated waste in line with organisational requirements and legislation.                                 |   |   |
| Evaluated treatment outcomes, took post treatment photographs and gained client feedback including signed approval of the treatment results.  |   |   |
| Given verbal and written aftercare recommendations including advice on further treatments, maintenance required and appropriate intervals.  |   |   |
| Recorded all treatment details in line with organisational requirements and legislation.  |   |   |

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## 6. Grading

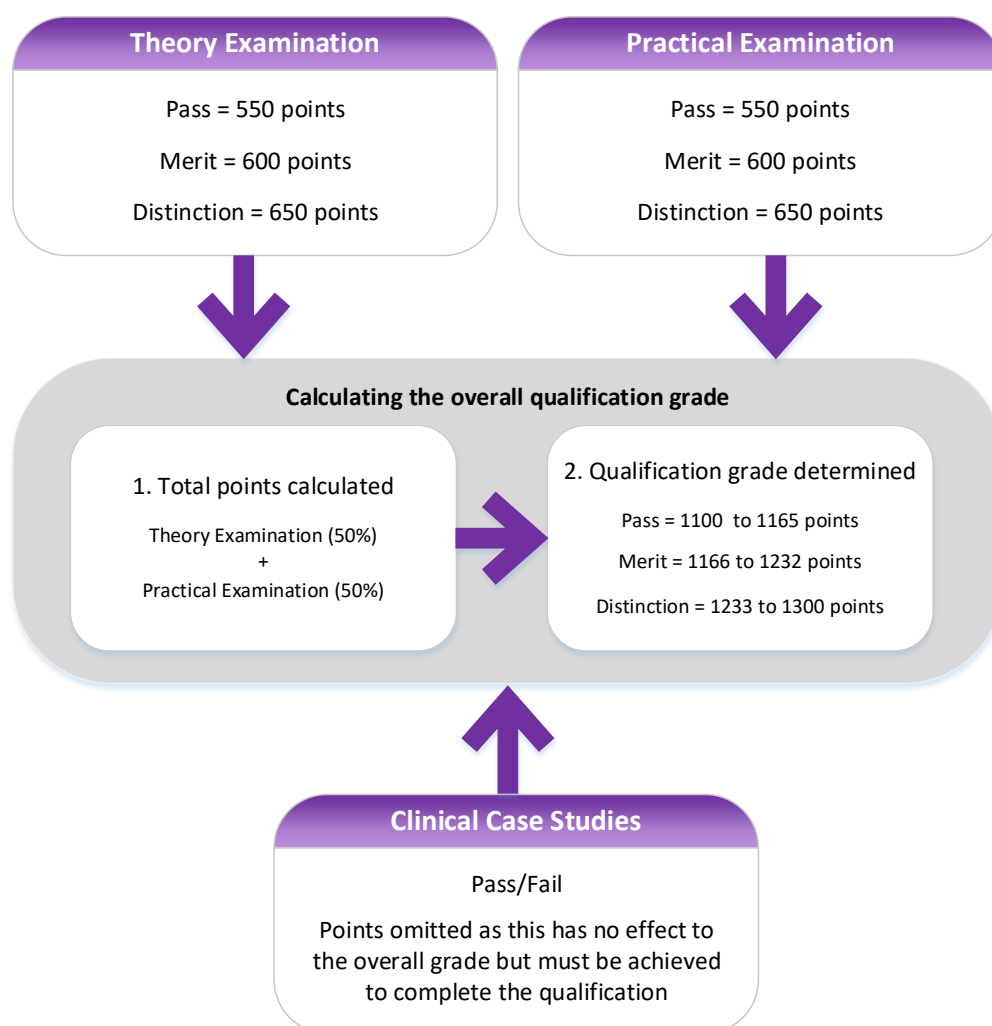
### 6.1 Overview

This qualification is graded Pass/Merit/Distinction.

The grading model employed in this qualification differentiates learner performance and in particular recognises high achievement.

There are two separate components in the grading model for this qualification, a graded external theory examination and a graded external practical examination. Each component contributes 50% to the overall qualification grade.

Learners must achieve a Pass grade or higher in the external theory and practical examinations. The grades achieved in each assessment correlate to points. These points will then be added together to determine the overall grade of the qualification, as depicted below:



### 6.2 Grade boundary review

Grade boundaries for units and the overall calculation for the qualification grade are open to annual review. Following this review, these boundaries and overall calculations can be adjusted by VTCT. This review and possible change within a qualification are to ensure the standard of the qualification grade is upheld throughout the qualification's lifecycle.

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# 7 External Examination and Moderation

## 7.1 External Examiner Visits

Centres delivering this qualification will have a quality assurance visit each time an examiner visits the centre.

On a centre visit an examiner:

- examines all learners entered for the external practical examination
- samples learners' internally assessed case studies
- verifies that appropriate staff and sufficient resources are in place, and that the centre is continuing to meet the criteria specified in the centre contract
- checks that the centre's policies and procedures continue to meet VTCT (iTEC) requirements
- allocates a quality assurance risk-rating to the centre
- provides advice and guidance on quality assurance matters

## 7.2 Spot Checking

In addition to the scheduled Examiner/EQA visits, targeted and unannounced spot checks of centres delivering this qualification will be undertaken as part of the awarding organisation's formal quality assurance process.

## 7.3 Support and guidance

Unit specifications, consultation sheets and internal assessment materials are available to support qualification delivery and assessment.

For more information, visit the VTCT and iTEC websites ([www.vtct.org.uk](http://www.vtct.org.uk), [www.itecworld.co.uk](http://www.itecworld.co.uk)).

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## 8. Unit structure

Units are available as separate specifications and can be downloaded from the VTCT and iTEC websites. Units that make up this qualification are structured as follows:

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Product code</b>               | The code allocated by the awarding organisation. This should be used when communicating directly with the awarding organisation.   |
| <b>Title</b>                      | Reflects the content of the unit.  |
| <b>Unit reference number</b>      | This is the unit reference number assigned by Ofqual.  |
| <b>Level</b>                      | This represents the level of achievement. The Regulated Qualifications Framework level descriptors and similar qualifications at this level inform the allocation of the unit level.   |
| <b>Guided Learning (GL) hours</b> | All units have GL assigned to them. This is the time a learner spends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• being taught or given instruction by a lecturer, tutor, supervisor or other appropriate provider of education or training</li></ul> |
| <b>Overview</b>                   | Provides a summary of what learners will cover in a unit, and outlines the knowledge, understanding and skills to be developed.  |
| <b>Learning outcomes</b>          | Specify what a learner will know, understand and be able to do as a result of completing a unit.   |
| <b>Unit content</b>               | Provides the basis for the teaching, learning and assessment of each learning outcome. Lecturers should ensure that the full breadth of unit content is delivered.   |
| <b>Assessment criteria</b>        | Assessment criteria specify the minimum standard required by the learner to achieve the relevant grade. Learners must provide sufficient and valid evidence to achieve the grade.  |



## Document History

| Version | Issue Date | Changes         | Role                               |
|---------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| V1.0    | 16/11/2022 | First published | Product and Regulation Coordinator |
|         |            |                 |                                    |