
Unit Specification

iUHB368 – Style and finish men’s hair using a variety of techniques

Unit reference number: M/651/0778

Level: 2

Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 45

Overview

This unit is about gaining the knowledge and skills to prepare for and provide dry and finished men’s styles to produce a variety of professional and commercial completed styles

Learners must reflect the barbering/hairdressing industry in their personal appearance and demonstrate effective communication skills

Learners will understand how hair texture, classifications and characteristics will need to be considered in order to achieve the finished look

Learners will use a range of products, tools, electrical equipment and techniques to provide men’s finished styles.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, learners will:

LO1 Be able to dry and finish men’s hair

LO2 Know how health and safety affects dry and finish men’s hair services

LO3 Know the factors that may influence dry and finish men’s hair services

LO4 Understand the science of dry and finish men’s hair services

LO5 Understand the products, tools, equipment and techniques used to dry and finish men’s hair

Unit content

LO1 Be able to dry and finish men's hair

Prepare for drying and finishing men's hair services

Taught content

- Preparation of learners should include:
 - Personal image, ensuring industry standards of dress
 - Clean and hygienic appearance, for example, avoidance of overpowering odours – tobacco, heavy perfume/aftershave
 - Good communication and listening skills
 - Correct posture with weight evenly balanced
- Preparation of the working area to include:
 - Chair and work area to be clean before the client arrives
 - Chair positioned correctly, including height
 - Adequate work area to allow safe use of electrical equipment, for example, using a handheld hairdryer
 - Products on display to be clean of dust and hair
 - Tools and equipment to be clean and sterilised
 - Disposing of waste hygienically and appropriately
 - Electrical equipment to be visually checked before use, for example, for centres within the United Kingdom portable appliance testing (PAT) may be required when using electrical equipment
 - All tools and equipment to be positioned for ease of use
- Preparation of the client to include:
 - Clean protective garments for the client
 - Visual checks of client's scalp for signs of cuts, sores, abrasions or infections; check the hair for infestations and suitability of service
 - Remove of obstructive jewellery
 - Check client record card (where appropriate) for previous services and client history
 - Check all tests have been undertaken (if required), for example, a porosity test to determine possible products to aid the drying process

Apply safe and hygienic methods of working throughout services

Taught content

- Ensure there is sufficient stock, which is used appropriately to minimise the wastage of products
- Ensure resources are clean and all hygienic precautions are followed to minimise the risk of cross-infection
- Cleansing/sterilising tools and equipment
- Work safely throughout the service to minimise risk, harm or injury to self or others
- Ensure equipment and products are readily available and free of dust and hair
- Ensure barber/stylist maintains good posture throughout the service to avoid a hazard or a risk
- Ensure the barbering chair is positioned for client comfort throughout the service/treatment to avoid a hazard or a risk
- Ensure correct storage and handling of all products, tools and equipment
- Ensure manufacturers' instructions are followed and used safely when using products
- Minimise the risk of damage to products, tools and equipment
- Ensure that waste is disposed of hygienically and appropriately
- Minimise the risk of harm or injury to themselves and others when using electrical equipment
- Ensure the scalp is protected when using direct heat, for example, straighteners are not used close to the scalp and a comb is used to protect the scalp
- Ensure hygienic working practices throughout the service including own personal hygiene, for example, eliminating offensive body odour or strong smell of tobacco
- Make effective use of their working time, for example, ensure all tools and equipment are set up prior to the dry and finish service

Carry out relevant tests

Taught content

- Reasons why tests are conducted, examples include:
 - To protect the client from harm
 - To ensure the service can be carried out
 - To check for contra-indications
 - To ensure the outcome is as expected
 - To prevent legal action
 - To maintain the barbershop/salons reputation
- The recording of dates of services and test results to include:
 - Porosity test – to test the hair's ability to absorb or retain moisture
 - Elasticity test – to test the inner strength of the hair
 - Density test – to determine the amount of hair on the head

Consult with clients about services and outcomes of tests

Taught content

- Undertaking appropriate tests and recording outcomes
- Assessing the hair conditions for contra-indications and suitability for the dry and finish service to include:
 - Hair classification
 - Hair characteristics
 - Hair elasticity, porosity, texture, density, condition, growth patterns and hair length
- Assessing the scalp condition to assess for contra-indications and the suitability of the dry and finish service to include:
 - Cuts, sores and abrasions
- Consulting and confirming with the client before the dry and finish service commences to agree the chosen style, desired look and finished result
- Explaining each stage of the dry and finish service to the client
- Agreeing products, process and possible equipment to be used
- Checking throughout the service to meet the client's needs
- Using visual aids where appropriate, for example, photos (style book); internet search for images of styled effects

Confirm with clients the desired effect

Taught content

- Discussing client's needs and requirements, for example, styling to disguise or enhance a growth pattern
- Discussing limitations or adaptations that may be required, for example, a cutting/restyle service to enhance the dry and finish service
- The importance of informing the client of the likely cost, duration and expected outcome of the service

Carry out a suitable questioning process with the client for the service

Taught content

- Understanding the client's requirements and expectations of the chosen hairstyle, for example, wanting to make the hair look thicker
- To provide the client the opportunity to ask questions (where necessary)
- To ensure the client is comfortable
- To gain information on how they maintain their hair, lifestyle and commitment to the chosen hairstyle, for example, a client who goes to the gym daily and needs to control their wavy hair, must be able to straighten their hair every wash – they may not have time to maintain the style
- To ensure and confirm that the client's expectations are met for the finish
- The legal significance of client questioning and the recording of client's responses to questioning
- The importance of informing the client of the likely cost, duration and expected outcome of the service
- The importance of confirming client's satisfaction

Select suitable products, tools and equipment for dry and finish men's hair services

Taught content

- Products:
 - Sprays – defined by varying degrees of strength (soft to firm hold), and matt or shine finish
 - Creams – sometimes referred to by barbers as hair paste, clay or gum, which give a range of hold factors, i.e. soft to strong, and provides a flexible hold with a various finishes, for example, shine through to matte finish
 - Mousse – available with and without colouring agents, various strengths from light to firm hold and can add to hold when blow-drying
 - Gel – can be used to produce a wet or dry look with hold
 - Wax/Pomade – small amounts are applied to dry hair to create a textured look and give a small degree of hold, texture and control
 - Tonics/astringents – available with or without aromatic properties, for example, bay rum, rosemary or cedar wood
 - Moisturisers/oils – conditions and adds moisture and shine to the hair when dried
 - Styling powders – provides structured, tousled, textured matt finish
- Tools:
 - Combs – different sized tooth combs can be used to style the hair
 - Wide tooth combs – used to blow dry shorter hair
 - Brushes
 - Vent brush/rake brush – produces a textured, natural and more casual effect to shorter hair
 - Round brushes – various diameters produce movement, curl and/or volume, for example, larger diameter brushes produce more volume and are more suited to creating quiffs and raised styles for men
 - Sectioning clips or clamps (where appropriate)– used to section longer hair during drying to avoid tangling and ensure the root area is fully dry
- Equipment:
 - Hairdryer – removes moisture from the hair and has different airflow and temperature settings
 - Nozzle – important attachment for hairdryer to condense air flow specifically to a chosen area
 - Diffuser – attachment for hairdryer will diffuse the air flow, adding volume and allowing hair to dry naturally
 - Straightening irons – used to straighten the hair or to smooth specific parts of a style

Carry out dry and finish men's hair services

Taught content

- Consult with the client to confirm the look agreed at consultation prior to and during the dry and finish
- Ensure the client is positioned correctly and at the right height and is adjusted when necessary, for example, when drying the nape area, the client's head should be tilted forward
- Ensure own posture is correct for the service, for example, weight evenly balanced
- Section longer hair, working methodically
- Select the correct temperature on the hair dryer for hair classification and characteristics, for example, medium heat for finer hair
- Controlling the hair during the dry and finish process, taking account of influencing factors, for example, over-porous chemically damaged hair may not be suitable for an application of heated electrical equipment for example, straighteners
- Taking meches of longer hair which suit the dry and finish, brush size, desired look, degree of straightness, curl, movement and volume required
- The techniques used to achieve a style and finish effect to include:
 - Blow-drying longer hair
 - The hair remains damp throughout the styling and drying process
 - Ensure sections remain neat and tidy and hair is not in the client's face
 - Correct brush size or comb chosen for the desired finish
 - Ensure the meche sizes are small ensure to allow the heat to penetrate the size meches chosen to achieve the result required
 - The airflow should flow over the cuticle in the direction of the hairstyle in order to keep the cuticles smooth and prevent tangles or damage. Ensure airflow keeps moving to avoid scalp burns
 - Use the brush or comb to create the tension to smooth the hair into shape
 - If applicable use an attachment for example, nozzle or diffuser, to control air flow during finger drying to ensure all the hair is dry
 - Finger drying
 - The hair remains damp throughout the styling and drying process
 - Ensure sections remain neat and tidy and hair is not in the client's face
 - Use fingers to smooth and create direction to the finished style
 - The airflow should flow over the cuticle in the direction of the hairstyle in order to keep the cuticles smooth and prevent tangles or damage. Ensure airflow keeps moving to avoid scalp burns
 - If applicable use an attachment, for example, nozzle or diffuser, to control air flow during finger drying to ensure all the hair is dry
 - Use of additional electrical equipment
 - Ensure the hair is thoroughly dry before using additional electrical equipment, for example, straighteners
 - The meches, that is the size of hair selected – are suitable for the equipment used for example, if the sections selected and the meche size is too large the equipment may become tangled in the hair
- Ensure the correct techniques are used for electrical equipment
- When using electrical straighteners do not allow contact with the scalp – use a comb as a barrier between the scalp and the equipment
- Avoid disturbing the hair already dried or waved, curled, or straightened
- Control the dry and finish tools to minimise the risk of damage to the hair, client discomfort and to achieve the desired look

- Finished looks to include:
 - Volume and lift
 - Movement and curl
 - Texture
 - Smoothing
 - Straightening

Apply the correct technique during drying and finishing men's hair services

Taught content

- Use the correct products, tools and equipment for the hair classification, characteristics and length, to include:
 - Ensure products are suitable for the hair classification and characteristics, for example, using appropriate dry and finishing aid that does not cause hair to become heavy. Apply products appropriate to the service in logical sequence
 - Ensure the tools are suitable for the hair classification and characteristics, for example, using the correct tools to dry hair
 - Demonstrate skills to manipulate and control the hair with chosen tools
 - Ensuring the equipment is suitable for the hair classification and characteristics, for example, using the correct additional electrical aid to soften the style that does not disturb other parts of the finished style
 - When finger drying, ensure correct technique is applied to maintain style
 - Demonstrate that straighteners, where used, have enhanced the finished style
- Use the correct tension on the hair when using brushes – for example, ensuring the brush used is not tight and digging into the client's scalp
- Adapt techniques where required to take into account specific hair growth patterns, for example, placing the brush directionally to lift a 'flat spot' near the back of the client's head
- Product choice – for example, a mousse product may be more suitable for finer hair texture

Communicate effectively when drying and finishing men's hair

Taught content

- Use open questions that require more than one answer to gain information from the client
- Use closed questions which can be used to close the consultation service and confirm agreement from the client
- Adopt a positive body language, examples will include good stance, arms uncrossed, eye contact and smiling
- Establish client requirements – avoids misunderstandings, ensures client satisfaction, reduces complaints
- Create positive working relationships with clients, staff, visitors
- Improve client retention, for example, a client will be more inclined to return to a barber/stylist who has communicated well and offered the best advice suited to their needs
- Importance of giving the client realistic expectations of the chosen service(s)
- Language difficulties, for example, limited speech, vocabulary or accents may present a barrier
- Cultural differences, for example, choice of vocabulary could potentially cause offence
- Physical disabilities, for example, speech, hearing problems may present a barrier
- Psychological difficulties, for example, low self-esteem and a lack of client confidence may make communicating difficult
- The importance of not discriminating against clients with illnesses or disabilities

Provide clients with advice and recommendations on the service(s) undertaken and products available

Taught content

- Explain the products used to clients including the benefits and effects for the dry and finish, for example, the use of wax to enhance the texture
- Home care maintenance, for example the routine could include styling using wax or gel to define texture
- Discuss client's needs, requirements and lifestyle to provide further advice and guidance on use of home care products, for example, a client with busy outdoor lifestyle may require advice and guidance on protecting the hair from extremes in temperatures to ensure a smooth effect when styling
- Discuss client's needs and requirements for future services, for example the need to grow a certain part of the hair for developing a new style
- Discuss limitations, for example a specific growth pattern, for example, cow lick – may be enhanced by the chosen hairstyle
- Ensure the client feels valued and that the dry and finish service was specifically tailored to their individual needs, for example, the direction the hair is styled in to disguise sparser areas
- The reasons for using specific products at home
- Provide the opportunity for the clients to ask further questions or seek clarification

LO2 Know how health and safety affects dry and finish men's hair services

The responsibilities for health and safety in own role

Taught content

- 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
 - Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations
 - Electricity at Work Regulations
 - Reporting Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)
 - The Consumer Protection Act
 - The Trade Descriptions Act
 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)
 - Barbershop/salon insurance requirements, employers liability, public liability, professional indemnity
- Responsibilities for health and safety to include:
 - The reasons why all staff working in the barbershop/salon have a responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others
 - The barbershop/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 describe accurately the features and benefits of products and services
 - The reasons and importance for gaining client consent
 - The maintenance of the barbershop/salon environment including:
 - The comfort of the barbershop/salon
 - Cleanliness of the barbershop/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
 - Making visual checks on all electrical equipment and reporting faults/isolating power
 - Ensuring manufacturers' instructions are always followed when using products and equipment
 - Responsibilities of reporting certain work-related incidents or accidents, diseases and dangerous occurrences to a senior staff member
 - Ensuring the public are protected from unsafe goods or misleading price indications
 - Prevent a false trade description of any goods that are supplied or offered to supply any goods to which a false trade description has been applied, or making a false statement about the provision of any service
 - Ensure that all personal client data records remain safe and confidential
 - Update client records following service
 - Hazards associated with drying and finishing men's hair
 - Risks associated with drying and finishing men's hair

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

Taught content

- The potential hazards and risks associated with not completing appropriate tests on the client and the hair
- Hazards – anything that has the potential to cause harm, for example, spillage of products on the floor
- Risks – a chance, high or low, that harm caused by the hazard may occur, for example, potential for self, client or others to slip on the spillage
- Working safely throughout the 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, for example, conduct visual checks, for example, loose wires can cause equipment to overheat
- Ensuring the client is comfortable and free from harm throughout the service e.g. chair at correct height with head rest removed
- Disposing of waste appropriately to minimise risk of cross-infection and ensure there is no unnecessary risk to the environment, for example, ensure clean protective garments are freshly laundered for every client
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), or legislation relevant to the country they are in, including handling and storage of all products, tools and equipment
- The course of action to be taken for a minor burn to the skin:
 - Cool the Skin. Apply a cold compress to the affected area immediately
 - Cover if possible
 - Avoid touching the area
 - If burn is severe, refer for medical attention
- The importance of ensuring a thorough visual check of the hair and scalp is performed prior to the service to prevent cross-infection, for example, ensuring the scalp is not tender when combing hair for sectioning prior to drying and finishing
- Risk of electric shock when using electrical equipment to enhance the service to include potential hazards of trailing wires
- Fire – the barbershop/salon's policy in the event of a fire and where the assembly point is
- The need to ensure personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements are followed for both client and barber/stylist

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

Taught content

- The use of clean towels and gowns for all clients
- The use of clean and sterile tools and equipment for all clients
- The importance of the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) for the barber/stylist and client
- Protecting the clients scalp when using electrical equipment, for example, ensure the airflow is not pointing directly at the client's scalp
- Safe work practices and use of tools and equipment to include:
 - Prevention of cross-infection, for example, covering any open cuts
 - The need to be organised and ready to undertake a dry and finish service
 - The maintenance of tools and equipment
 - Avoidance of trailing wires, for example, a trailing wire could cause a potential trip
 - Avoidance from water sprays and products on the floor, e.g. water on the floor may cause a potential slippage
- Apply heat protectors (where required) to the hair when using electrical equipment
- Organisation of working area – there should be adequate room to allow the stylist/barber to work safely using the electrical equipment

Contact dermatitis and how it can be prevented

Taught content

- Recognising contact dermatitis symptoms
- Contact dermatitis – is a rash caused by the skin reacting to a substance it has come into contact with, for example, chemicals. Symptoms can be varied and include:
 - Skin redness
 - Extreme itching
 - Oozing or blisters, may make skin swell
 - Skin that appears darkened or hard/leathery to touch that may become dry or flaky
 - Sensitive to products and sunlight
- How to avoid contracting and preventing measures which may include:
 - Wearing gloves (recommended) when shampooing hair prior to hair drying and finishing services
 - Rinsing and drying hands thoroughly
 - Use of moisturisers or barrier creams
- Following Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations when using and storing products:
 - Following and adhering to manufacturers' instructions when using products to style the hair

LO3 Know the factors that may influence dry and finish men's hair services

The factors that may influence dry and finish men's hair services

Taught content

- 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

- The factors that must be taken into account to judge where the application of tools, products and equipment for dry and finishing are required, to include:
 - Density – this is defined as the number of hairs on the scalp and can be defined as low, medium or high. This 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 and may tangle easily. Porous hair will absorb water and products more easily
 - Elasticity – this relates to the condition of the cortex layer of the hair. Elasticity levels are affected by how the hair is treated and the condition it is in. Hair should stretch and return to its normal size; this indicates the hair is in good condition with 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 in which the hair grows from the scalp and may influence the desired finish
 - Head and face shape and size – this relates to the overall shape and size of the client's head and includes any specific features
 - Lifestyle – this is about the client's everyday activities and working patterns
 - Hair length – this will affect the general condition of the hair
 - Presence of male pattern baldness – this is about a general pattern of a receding hair line and thinning on the crown
 - The current style hair or haircut, for example, adaptations may be required to achieve the client expectations
 - General outdoor weather conditions – will affect the longevity of the finished men's style

How factors may limit or affect services and choice of products

Taught content

- How the factors may influence the style and finish methods, and techniques employed. These factors may also affect the desired style. Factors to include:
 - Contra-indications that may prevent services to include:
 - Adverse skin conditions
 - Bacterial, viral or fungal infections
 - Infections or infestations
 - Results of tests – may prevent or restrict services being offered, or determine products, tools and equipment being used and services offered
 - Density, examples include:
 - Product choice, for example, high density hair will not require a product that increases volume when blow-drying
 - Brush type and size, for example, low density hair will require careful tension using a brush that will help smooth the cuticle
 - Texture, as an example, finer hair will require products that helps to give volume
 - Porosity – cuticles which are raised and feel rough are known as porous and will absorb water and products more easily and unevenly when blow-drying. Suitable treatment products will be required if hair is porous. Products, for example thickening lotions, must be applied evenly and the hair may take longer to dry if used when blow-drying
 - Elasticity – it is important to ensure that the correct tension is used when drying and finishing hair and that it is not over stretched if in poor condition. May limit the use of some equipment and drying techniques
 - Growth patterns – selection of appropriate products, tools and equipment may be required, for example, a client with a curly fringe may require use of a larger brush to straighten the hair or the addition of straighteners to achieve the finish
 - Head and face shape and size – important to ensure that the client has a style they can manage which suits their overall appearance and will influence the products and tools used
 - Lifestyle – the need to adapt the style to suit the client's everyday needs, e.g. a client who starts his day at the gym and deals with clients/customers all day at work requires a professional image that is manageable and can easily be replicated each day
 - Hair length – this will affect not only the chosen style, but the use of products tools and equipment, for example, a client with longer hair may need brushes to assist in the drying process
 - Presence of male pattern baldness – for example, this can affect the choice of finished style that would be appropriate for the client
 - Temperature and humidity of barbershop/salon – as the hair is hygroscopic, the need to monitor the barbershop/salon temperature is important when drying and finishing men's hair. For example, a barbershop/salon with high levels of humidity can have an impact when applying electrical equipment to dry hair as the hair will absorb the atmospheric moisture more easily causing the hair to be less receptive to the service requirements
 - Heat temperature to be adjusted on a client by client basis when drying and styling men's hair, for example, a client with sparse hair will need the heat setting reduced to avoid scalp burns
 - General outdoor weather conditions – will affect the longevity of the style and may require the use of additional products to protect the hair once finished
 - Other services previously undertaken either at home or at a barbershop/salon – may influence the end result, for example, a facial beard cut service will require the correct selection of styling and finishing products (if appropriate) according to the hair type and classification

Contra-indications and how they affect dry and finish men's hair services

Taught content

- A contra-indication to the hair and scalp can affect, prevent or alter the service, products or techniques used in the dry and style men's hair service
- Contagious conditions can be passed person to person and will prevent services, to include:
 - Bacterial infection examples include:
 - Barber's itch, for example, possible infection around ears/hairline
 - Impetigo – begins as blisters that itch, then fill with a yellowish-brown fluid that, once ruptured, 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 examples 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 examples include:
 - 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
- Non – contagious, contra-indications which might contribute to preventing or restricting a men's hair cutting service, for example, a client with an allergy to perfumes or oils may not be suited to some products or tonics, to include:
 - Scalp sensitivity – an inflamed, sore and red scalp may prevent direct heat being placed on scalp and care should be taken when using products
 - Sebaceous cyst – lump on top or under scalp/head, care should be taken when using brushes and combs, hair could be styled to cover lump
 - Psoriasis – dry silvery scales of skin, care should be taken when using brushes and combs not to catch the skin. Certain products may cause the condition to worsen
 - Contact dermatitis – dry, red, sore, itchy and may be weeping. Care should be taken when using brushes and combs not to catch the skin. Certain products may cause the condition to worsen
 - Recent scar/tissue injury, may be tender when using combs or brushes
 - Hair loss, possible after hair extension removal, medication, stress or trauma (alopecia), use tools and equipment carefully to avoid damage to hair or skin
 - Hair defects, contra-indication examples include:
 - 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. Use tools and equipment carefully to avoid damage to 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
 - Whom to report to and where to record the findings
 - Referral for medical attention or advice
 - History of previous allergic reaction

The importance of identifying factors that may limit or affect services

Taught content

- The importance of identifying factors that may limit or affect services
- Avoiding mistakes, examples may include preventing damage to the hair and scalp
- Preventing legal action
- Informed consent
- Avoiding cross-contamination

The importance of preventing cross-infection and cross-infestation

Taught content

- How to avoid cross-contamination, cross-infection or infestation – use of correct sterilising and disinfecting methods for all tools and equipment
- Ensuring the client's scalp and hair are checked prior to the drying and finishing service
- Avoidance of cross-contamination, for example, using unclean tools or protective garments from one client could contaminate the next client's hair or scalp
- Ensure the professional barbershop/salon image is maintained

The methods of sterilisation and disinfecting methods used in barbershops and salons

Taught content

- The importance of ensuring tools, equipment and work surfaces must be kept clean, well maintained and sterilised or disinfected
- How to prevent cross-infection/contamination, that is, sterilisation and disinfecting methods:
 - Sterilisation – the killing of organisms such as bacteria, fungi and parasites
 - Disinfecting – the elimination of the most harmful micro-organisms (not including their spores) from surfaces or objects
- The methods of cleaning and sterilisation:

Cleaning/sterilisation	Tools	Use/instructions
Autoclave	Metal tools for hair, e.g. scissors	• Steam is used at high temperatures to sterilise equipment • Tools/equipment usually take 20 minutes to sterilise; autoclaves are not suitable for wooden handled tools
Chemical sterilisers	Scissors, combs, brushes, sectioning clips	• Mostly used in chemical jars, a solution is made following manufacturers' instructions. Tools are submerged for 20 minutes to be fully sterilised
Ultra-violet cabinet	All tools	• Ultra-violet rays sterilise tools, turn tools after 20 minutes to ensure both sides are fully sterilised
Moist heat	Towels, gowns	• Hot cycle on washing machine used to kill bacteria and clean effectively
Cleaning detergents	Work surfaces	• Must be used at correct concentrations and is used mostly to decontaminate surfaces and air

When and how drying and finishing tests are carried out

Taught content

- Elasticity test – may prevent or restrict the use of certain brushes or combs if the hair is stretched and does not go back to its original state
 - On wet hair, take individual strands of hair from 3-4 areas of the head – if hair is dry then dampen thoroughly
 - Hold one single hair securely and pull it – if the hair stretches and return to its original length without breaking it has normal elasticity. If hair breaks or fails to return to its original length it has low or no elasticity
- Porosity test – the hair's ability to retain moisture. Where hair is porous it may take longer to dry the hair or require product to smooth the cuticle. Additional advice to client may include hair treatments, restyle or cut
 - To determine the external strength of cuticle – take a few strands of hair slide down towards the scalp using one finger and one thumb
 - The more resistance felt, the more porous the hair
- Density test – Take a square inch sized area to assess how tightly packed the follicles and strands of hairs are. Low density hair will be spaced out allowing the scalp to be seen (if more than 60% of the scalp can be seen then the hair has low density). High density hair will be tightly packed with minimal scalp to be seen (if less than 20% of the scalp can be seen then the hair has high density) When testing the density of the hair, 3-4 areas of the scalp must be assessed as density can vary depending on factors such as male pattern baldness. Different techniques and products can be used to suit the level of hair density

The importance of how test results influence services

Taught content

- Confirming the service can proceed
- Offering alternative services where hair is either in poor condition or not compatible for drying and finishing men's hair services
- Preventing damage to the scalp or hair
- Prevention of the client taking legal action – ensure all tests and test results are recorded
- Preventing the reputation of the barbershop/salon being damaged
- Avoiding mistakes
- Results of tests:
 - Elasticity test – if the hair is stretched and does not go back to its original state, it is damaged; then determine what, if any, conditioning treatments to use
 - Porosity test – the hair's ability to retain moisture. Where hair is porous it may need conditioning treatments
 - Density test – is defined as the number of hairs on the scalp and can be low, medium or high density, for example, a client with low hair density on the top of the head would require styling and finishing products that help to give volume

LO4 Understand the science of dry and finish men's hair services

The effects of humidity on hair and the hair's natural properties

Taught content

- Two key properties of hair:
 - Hygroscopicity is the hair's ability to absorb water
 - Elasticity is the hair's ability to stretch and return to its original shape
- Alpha keratin:
 - Hair in its natural state when wet or shampooed is known as alpha keratin
 - Water or atmospheric moisture (humidity) is absorbed into the cortex making it alpha keratin
- Beta keratin:
 - Hair in its stretched and dried state is known as beta keratin, temporarily reforming a new shape
 - Hair can be moulded into a temporary shape
 - Hydrogen bonds are temporary bonds that can be broken with water or heat
- Any addition of moisture – humidity:
 - When it becomes wet again it reverts to its normal un-stretched shape and goes back to alpha keratin state
 - As an example, a client with type 3c coarse tight curly hair who has had his hair blow-styled and straightened should avoid a shower after visiting the barbershop, as the hair will revert back to its natural state
 - Porous hair has greater absorbent qualities of the hair for water and products
- The use of products to protect the hair from atmospheric moisture/humidity, such as finishing sprays
- When hair has been dried and finished into its new stretched temporary form of beta keratin, it must be kept dry. Any addition of moisture or humidity will cause the hair to revert back to its original alpha keratin state

LO5 Understand the products, tools, equipment and techniques used to dry and finish men's hair services

The importance of preparing the hair prior to drying and finishing men's hair

Taught content

- The importance of preparing hair prior to drying and finishing men's hair to include:
 - Checking hair growth patterns/natural fall of the hair
 - Checking hair and scalp prior to shampooing to remove dirt/debris, product build-up
 - Checking hair and scalp for scars or cuts
 - Checking for influencing factors
 - Checking for contra-indications/signs of infections or infestations
 - Checking for piercings that may inhibit the service
 - Hair growth pattern/movement
 - Natural fall of the hair

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

Taught content

- Products:
 - Sprays – defined by varying degrees of strength (soft to firm hold), and matt or shine finish; can be applied to wet and/or dry following manufacturers' instructions. Sets hair in place when applied wet and gives additional hold to finished style keeping it in place. Specialist sprays can also add thickening properties. Apply sparingly to dried hair at a distance of 20cm, avoiding client or others inhaling product
 - Creams – sometimes referred to by barbers as hair paste, clay or gum. Available as oil or water-based products with or without additives which give a range of hold factors when drying and finishing men's styles (soft to strong) and provides various finishes, for example, shine through to matte finish:
 - Oil based creams are used for dry/coarse hair to control frizz
 - Water-based formulas are usually easy to apply and rinse out leaving no residue or build-up
 - Various strengths from light to firm hold which can enhance finishing and blow-drying.
 - Care should be taken to apply a small amount at a time as some hair types can become overloaded. Apply to wet or dry hair as directed
 - Mousse – available with and without colouring agents, various strengths from light to firm hold and can add to hold when blow-drying. Suitable for most hair types; apply to wet hair
 - Gel – can be used to produce a wet or dry look with hold; applied to towel-dried hair liberally, light hold should be used for fine hair, for example, 1a-2a classification. Comb the gel evenly throughout hair, comb into place and let it air dry completely. For a dry look comb through when completely dry. Also ideal for creating short textured or spiky finishes, apply to wet or dry hair
 - Wax/Pomade – small amounts are applied to dry hair to create a textured look and give a small degree of hold, texture and control. Some waxes require softening in the hands first to make them malleable before application. Available with or without added perfumes/colognes. Not suitable for very fine hair

- Tonics/astringents – available with or without aromatic properties, for example, bay rum, rosemary or cedar wood. Specialist tonics are used to treat individual problems, for example, psoriasis, dandruff, thinning hair and to protect hair from the heat of equipment or humidity. Products improve conditions and enhance the finish; apply to wet hair/scalp as directed by manufacturers’ instructions
- Moisturisers/oils – conditions and adds moisture and shine to the hair when dried. Suitable for type 3 b, c and 4 b, c classification hair type
- Styling powders – applied to dried hair, providing control. Styling powders are non-greasy, non-sticky and provide structured, tousled, textured matt finish
- Tools:
 - Combs – different sized tooth combs can be used to style the hair. For example, some barbers use a general cutting comb with a hairdryer and nozzle to help create a natural wave at front of the hair. Wide tooth combs are generally used to either de-tangle the hair when wet or to help style straight hair
 - Brushes
 - Flat brushes – various sizes, for example, Denman produce smoother straighter results, not ideal for adding curl but can be used to provide lift for styles with height
 - Vent brush/rake brush – produces a textured, natural and more casual effect to shorter hair
 - Round brushes – various diameters produce movement, curl and/or volume, for example, larger diameter brushes produce more volume and are more suited to creating quiffs and raised styles for men
 - Sectioning clips or clamps (where appropriate) – used to section longer hair during drying to avoid tangling and ensure the root area is fully dry
- Equipment:
 - Hairdryer – removes moisture from the hair and has different airflow and temperature settings. High temperatures should not be used on skin fade areas or where there is fine, dry or fragile hair conditions
 - Nozzle – important attachment for hairdryer to condense air flow specifically to a chosen area. Care should be used to ensure scalp burn or hair damage is avoided especially on short or thinning hair
 - Diffuser – attachment for hairdryer will diffuse the air flow, adding volume and allowing hair to dry naturally. Ideal for naturally curly or permed hair where finger drying is preferred
 - Straightening irons – used to straighten the hair or to smooth specific parts of a style

The correct use and maintenance of dry and finish men's hair tools and equipment

Taught content

- Tools:
 - Brushes – de-hair and wash in warm soapy water, depending on materials used to make the brush, they can be immersed in disinfectant solution. Bristle brushes with wooden handles require the bristles only to be immersed as the wood will swell and crack
 - All combs – de-hair and wash in warm soapy water and immerse in disinfectant solution for at least twenty minutes. Clean combs should be used for each client
 - Sectioning clips or clamps (where appropriate) – wash or wipe with disinfectant/sterilising solution
- Equipment:
 - Fixtures and fittings, including chairs, mirror workstation area – clean away all loose hairs and wash with warm soapy water or clean with disinfectant/sterilising wipes or sprays
 - Hand dryer, electrical equipment – wipe over to remove debris and check filters to remove excess dust build up. Check all working parts daily. Ensure the maintenance equipment reports are recorded and, where appropriate, how often any electrical testing is required

The importance of following barbershop/salon and manufacturers' instructions for products, tools and equipment

Taught content

- To prevent hazards, for example, when applying the product ensure spillages are wiped up
- To minimise risks, for example, to avoid slips on spilt products
- The importance of ensuring there is adequate ventilation when using hairsprays to minimise unnecessary inhalation of product
- To produce satisfactory results, for example, using a moisturising product on fine hair making it oily
- To avoid problems or mistakes, for example, using too much product and overloading the hair making it oily
- Following and adhering to manufacturers' instructions when using products and equipment to dry and finish men's hair
- To avoid legal action, for example, carelessness or misuse leading to product getting in the client's eyes

The importance of using products cost-effectively

Taught content

- Applying products in a logical sequence
- Applying products evenly to minimise wastage, for example, using recommended manufacturer amounts and ensuring even distribution to produce an even texture result and prevent waste
- The effect on the hair and/or scalp if excessive products are used, for example, saturating fine hair could result in difficulty in finishing the style, or the scalp becoming irritated by the product
- The safe storage of products as some may lose their ability to work or may present a risk or hazard, for example, hairsprays/aerosols should be stored away from direct heat and sunlight
- Follow barbershop/salon and organisation policy, for example, ensuring manufacturers' instructions are adhered to when using products for drying and finishing hair

Techniques used to dry and finish men's hair

Taught content

- The different techniques used to achieve a dry and finish effect to men's hair
- Blow-drying:
 - The hair remains damp throughout the styling and drying process
 - Section longer hair where required
 - Correct comb/brush size and shape chosen for the desired finish
 - Apply heat to correct meche sizes, i.e. ensure the size meches chosen will achieve the result required
 - The air should flow down the cuticle in the direction of the hairstyle in order to keep the cuticles smooth and prevent tangles or damage
 - Ensure even movement of airflow to avoid scalp burns
 - Use a brush where appropriate to create the tension to smooth the hair into shape
 - If applicable use an attachment, for example, nozzle or diffuser, to control air flow
- Finger drying:
 - The hair remains damp throughout the styling and drying process
 - Ensure correct technique is applied, for example, sections remain neat and tidy where required
 - Use fingers to smooth and create direction to the finished style
 - The airflow should flow over the cuticle in the direction of the hairstyle in order to keep the cuticles smooth and prevent tangles or damage
 - Ensure even movement of airflow to avoid scalp burns
 - If applicable use an attachment, for example, nozzle or diffuser, to control air flow
 - If using a diffuser ensure that it does not become too hot and burn the scalp, ensure the temperature is checked throughout
 - Ensure all the hair is dry
- Use of additional electrical equipment:
 - Ensure the hair is thoroughly dry before using additional electrical equipment, for example, straighteners
 - The meche, that is the size of hair selected, must be suitable for the equipment used, for example, if the sections selected and the meche size are too large the equipment may become tangled in the hair

Assessment requirements

Learners must complete all assessment requirements related to this unit:

1. Service portfolio
2. Synoptic practical examination

1. Service portfolio

Learners must produce a service portfolio along with a style collection 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, to ensure that they meet the given criteria.

The performance of learning outcome 1 must be demonstrated as part of all technical observations and will be recorded on **at least three occasions**. This should be conducted on a range of new and existing clients and cover a range of different men's style and products using appropriate products and drying techniques.

The learner is required to complete a men's style collection. This style collection must be presented in a hard copy format (not digital) and will show a range techniques on a variety of different hair classifications which demonstrates all types of men's finishing styles to include volume and lift, movement and curl, texture, smoothing and straightening.

The men's style collection will be internally marked and must be available to view by the external examiner during the practical examination.

The service portfolio must be completed and marked prior to the learner completing the synoptic practical examination.

2. Synoptic practical examination

Learners must complete a synoptic practical examination for this unit which will be externally set by the awarding organisation and examined and marked by an external examiner. The synoptic practical examination will take place at the end of the period of learning. For synoptic practical examination criteria please refer to the qualification specification.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v1.0	20/03/2024	First published	Qualification Administrator
v2.0	24/06/2026	Rebranding	Development Administrator