

UHB170M

Blow-dry and style hair

Unit reference number: F/615/0803

Level: 2

Guided Learning (GL) hours: 30

Overview

This unit is about providing a styled blow-dry for clients while producing a completed look on different lengths of hair. Learners will develop basic skills to work safely and hygienically throughout a blow-drying and styling service.

Learners will understand how hair texture, classifications and characteristics require consideration in order to achieve the desired finished style.

Learners will use a range of products, tools, electrical equipment and techniques to provide the blow-dried style. Learners will establish core knowledge and skills to competently prepare for and provide a professional and commercial blow-dried style.

Learners will also establish essential knowledge of restrictions and contra-indications that may occur when carrying out a blow-drying and styling service. Other considerations will be the desired look of the completed style, client lifestyle and factors which may affect and influence the blow-dried result.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, learners will:

LO1 Know the salon procedures to blow-dry and style hair

LO2 Understand the factors which influence the styled blow-dry

LO3 Know the products, tools and equipment required for blow-drying and styling hair

LO4 Be able to prepare for blow-drying and styling

LO5 Be able to provide a blow-dried style

Assessment requirements

Learners must complete **all** four assessment requirements related to this unit:

1. Service portfolio
2. Graded practical assessment
3. External examination
4. Graded synoptic assessment

1. Service portfolio

Learners must produce a service portfolio. The service portfolio for this unit must contain evidence that learners have:

- Performed a minimum of 8 finished styles
 - Covered at least 3 different hair classifications
 - Covered classification ranges from a-c
- Performed styles that include all hair lengths
 - Long hair
 - Medium hair (above and below shoulder)
 - Short hair
- Created styles with effects to include all of the following
 - Straightening
 - Volume and lift
 - Movement and curl
 - Smoothing
- Used a minimum of 6 products
 - Serum
 - Mousse
 - Gel
 - Wax
 - Blow-dry lotions/creams
 - Moisturisers/oils
 - Hairsprays
 - Finishing sprays
 - Hairgloss/lotion/cream
- Used all tools and equipment
 - Round brushes of various diameters
 - Paddle brush or flat Denman
 - Vent brush/rake type brush
 - Full selection of combs
 - Sectioning clips or clamps
 - Pin curl clips
 - Hairdryer and nozzle
 - Diffuser

- Considered all factors and influences
 - All hair classifications
 - All hair characteristics including growth patterns
 - Head, face and body shape
 - Client requirements and lifestyle
 - Temperature and humidity
 - Commercial timing
- Provided all aftercare advice and recommendations
 - Initial consultation to agree style
 - How to maintain the look
 - Post service maintenance
 - Additional products and services
 - Time interval between salon appointments

The service portfolio must be completed prior to learners undertaking the graded practical skills test. Whilst treatment portfolios will not be graded, they may be sampled by the VTCT External Quality Assurer (EQA).

Evidence from the graded practical assessment must also be presented in the service portfolio.

2. Graded practical assessment

Learners must carry out a complete blow-dried style which will be observed, marked and graded by centre assessors. The grade achieved in the graded practical assessment will be the grade awarded for the unit.

The graded practical assessment must take place in a real or realistic working environment on a real client. At a minimum the graded practical assessment for this unit must cover:

- Service – blow-drying and styling of medium length hair
 - One new client using methods and techniques performed within a commercial time appropriate to client's hair type to produce a basic salon professional finish
- Products, tools and equipment to include as a minimum
 - Combs, brushes, sectioning clips/clamps, hand held hair drying equipment, appropriate products when hair is wet, for hair type, to dry and style hair; complete the blow-dry with appropriate finishing products

Recorded professional discussion can also be used as an assessment method attached to the graded practical assessment and is particularly useful for gathering evidence for criteria related to evaluation and reflection. Professional discussions should be planned and recorded.

3. External examination

Whilst the theory content of LO1, LO2 and LO3 may be naturally assessed in the graded practical assessment, they will be tested by an external examination towards the end of the period of learning.

External examinations will test knowledge and understanding from across the whole vocational area (mandatory units). Learners should use the unit content section of this unit to aid revision since exam questions will test knowledge from within the full breadth of this section.

External examinations will be set and marked by VTCT and will contribute to the overall qualification grade.

4. Graded synoptic assessment

In the last term or final third of their qualification, learners will be required to undertake a graded synoptic assessment. This will require learners to carry out a range of services from across the whole vocational area (mandatory units). Assessment coverage will vary year on year, although all services will be covered over time.

VTCT will set a brief for centres which will detail the services to be covered in the graded synoptic assessment. Grading descriptors for the synoptic assessment will also be provided by VTCT.

The graded synoptic assessment will be marked and graded by centre staff and externally verified by VTCT.

The graded synoptic assessment will contribute to the overall qualification grade.

Unit content

LO1 Know the salon procedures to blow-dry and style hair

Learners must know their personal responsibilities for health and safety when providing blow-dry and style the hair services:

- Personal presentation is important in creating an overall good impression and promotes client satisfaction, repeat/new business and a positive reputation for the stylist/salon
- Create and maintain a positive image and attitude, including good posture with body weight evenly balanced, throughout the service
- Ensure salon uniform requirements are adhered to, i.e. learners should strictly follow individual salon's agreed professional dress code (as appropriate). As an example of a health and safety requirement, closed-in low-heel shoes should be worn. Clothing should be modest, clean, pressed and in good condition
- Present good personal hygiene including clean clothes, clean teeth and fresh breath
- Avoid of strong smells e.g. tobacco, heavy perfume or aftershave

Learners must know how to effectively implement salon health and safety procedures when preparing the working area:

- It is the responsibility of all staff to maintain health and safety procedures whilst working in a salon. Learners must
 - Present a clean and hygienic working area
 - Clean and sterilise tools and equipment appropriately
 - Contribute to safe practices
 - Provide knowledge of all health and safety legislation

Learners must know how to recognise relevant hazards and risks when providing blow-drying and styling services:

- Within the salon, safety is of paramount importance and learners must know how to recognise potential harm or injury that may occur, these include
 - Hazards – anything that has the potential to cause harm, e.g. hairdryer lead left plugged in and trailing around a client's chair
 - Risks – a chance, high or low, that a hazard may cause harm, e.g. someone may trip over trailing hairdryer lead
 - Learners must ensure they work safely throughout the blow-drying and styling service ensuring maintenance of electrical equipment is monitored. Learners must carry out visual checks on electrical hairdryer for safe use
 - Learners will ensure client comfort is maintained throughout the blow-dry service
 - Learners must ensure they dispose of waste appropriately to minimise the risk of cross-infection and ensure there is no unnecessary risk to the environment

Learners must know the different types of working methods that promote environmental and sustainable working practices:

- Environmental and sustainable working practices require the cooperation of all staff, these may include
 - Reducing and managing waste (recycle, reuse, safe disposal), e.g. measuring products where applicable and not using excessive amounts of products
 - Reducing energy usage (energy efficient hairdryers, low energy lighting, utilising solar panels)
 - Reducing water usage, e.g. turn tap off whilst applying shampoo or conditioner when shampooing prior to service

- Using reusable items (easy dry towels)
- Using recycled, eco-friendly furniture
- Using low-chemical paint
- Using organic and allergy-free hair products
- Using environmentally-friendly product packaging
- Choosing responsibly sourced domestic products, e.g. Fairtrade tea and coffee

Learners must understand the importance of accurate record keeping:

- Record and maintenance cards/electronic files are an effective resource within a salon and provide accurate information regarding client services, history of the client, the products used and any tests carried out with dates. Learners must understand the importance of record keeping, ensuring future services can be tracked. Maintenance of electrical equipment record cards/files will verify equipment testing, faults and general repairs for specific items. Learners must ensure
 - The client record cards are maintained and show current information
 - Electrical records are updated if equipment becomes faulty during the service
 - Latest equipment testing date records are checked

LO2 Understand the factors which influence the styled blow-dry

Learners must understand the hair classifications and characteristics:

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

- Learners must know how the extent and degree of the hair classifications and characteristics will influence products, tools and equipment used in the blow-drying service. As an example, a client with a hair classification of 3a – soft curl has natural movement in the hair which will influence product choice, and size(s) of brush(es) used in blow-drying and styling depending on length of hair

Learners must understand how hair classifications, characteristics and analysis influence blow-drying and styling services:

- Density – this is defined as the number of hairs on the scalp, it will affect the choice of tools and products used and the time of the service, e.g. avoid products that increase volume of the hair on thicker, dense coarse hair. Heat levels to be adjusted on a client by client basis when blow-drying, e.g. long, fine straight hair will take a shorter time to blow-dry and need less intense heat than long, thick straight hair
- Texture – this is defined as the feel of each hair and whether the hair is fine, medium or coarse to the touch. Texture may affect the porosity of the hair. In blow-drying, the use of products may affect the drying time
- Elasticity – this is defined as the internal strength of the hair and is sometimes referred to as “tensile strength”. Poor elasticity can be caused by excessive or prolonged use of heat or chemicals and can restrict blow-drying services in extreme cases. When elasticity is poor the hair becomes stretchy and breaks; specialist treatments should be recommended and the use of heat or chemicals on the hair should be stopped to prevent further damage until elasticity improves
- Porosity – this relates to the condition of the cuticle. Porosity levels are affected by both chemical and physical damage. Learners must control heat direction and ensure correct use of tools in blow-drying to minimise further damage and avoid tangling the hair. 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
- Growth patterns – this relates to the direction in which the hair grows from the scalp and may influence the desired finish. Selection of appropriate tools and products may help overcome a difficult growth pattern, e.g. a client with a ‘widow’s peak’ may achieve a fringe temporarily with correct products, tools, equipment and drying techniques
- Head and face shape and size – this relates to the overall shape of and size of a client’s head and includes any specific features. When blow-drying, it is important to ensure that the client has a style they can manage and which suits their overall appearance. As an example, a client with a long face may not require height on the crown, or a client with a round face may be best suited with minimal volume at the sides

- Lifestyle – this is about the client's everyday activities and working patterns, e.g. a client who has a demanding job and is meeting and greeting new customers all day at work, requires a blow-dry and style that is manageable and can easily be replicated each day. A style requiring high maintenance, e.g. long hair blow-dried into curls with no styling products, would not last as long and would be more difficult for the client to maintain
- Hair length – this will affect the general condition of the hair. If the hair is long, the ends will have been shampooed many times and the condition may be affected by physical or chemical processes. Product usage is important when blow-drying, along with selecting the right tools to ensure an even result is achieved. Long hair may be weighed down by the use of some products
- Services prior to blow-drying – other services offered prior to blow-drying may influence the finishing, e.g. a client who is new and only requests a blow-dry and styling service requires the correct selection of shampoo and conditioner (if appropriate) according to hair type and classification
- Temperature and humidity of the salon, client and general external weather conditions – these will be influencing factors when blow-drying. A salon that has poor ventilation may produce a damp and humid atmosphere, affecting service, e.g. if outside weather conditions are very hot and sunny, perspiration from the client on the scalp may present dampness at the roots, and therefore correct temperature control of the hairdryer is important. Temperature within the salon must be controlled with either additional heating, ventilation or assisted fanning devices

Learners must understand factors that can prevent or restrict blow-drying and styling:

There are a range of factors which might contribute to preventing or restricting a blow-dry and style service, e.g. a client with an allergy

- Non-contagious – may prevent or restrict services due to severity of condition
 - Sebaceous cyst – lump on top of or under scalp
 - Seborrhoea – excessively oily hair and scalp
 - Psoriasis – dry silvery scales of skin
 - Contact dermatitis – dry, red, sore, itchy skin, may possibly be weeping
 - Scalp sensitivity – an inflamed, sore and red scalp may prevent direct heat being placed on scalp and care should be taken when using combs or brushes
 - Dry hair – fragile, coarse hair which may be caused by overuse of heat or chemicals or environmental factors, may also cause split ends
 - Recent scar/tissue injury may be tender when using combs, brushes or heat
 - Hair loss (alopecia), possible after hair extension removal, medication, stress or trauma, use tools and equipment carefully to adapt style to cover hair loss

Learners must know contra-indications to blow-drying and styling:

A contra-indication to the hair and scalp can prevent or alter the service, products or techniques used in the blow-drying and styling service

- Contagious – can be passed person to person which may prevent service, will include
 - Bacterial – impetigo, folliculitis, furuncles
 - Viral – warts, herpes
 - Fungal – tinea capitis/ringworm
 - Animal parasites – pediculosis capitis/head lice, scabies
- Hair defects
 - Trichorrhexis nodosa – rough swollen broken shaft

Learners must understand the importance of questioning when providing a blow-drying and styling service:

- An important factor of the blow-drying and styling service is to understand the client's requirements and to ensure a happy and satisfied client who will rebook for future services and recommend and promote salon staff and services to other potential clients. Learners must know
 - How to use questioning to communicate with the client in a way that meets the client's individual needs
 - The importance of understanding the client's requirements regarding the blow-drying and styling service. This may include the use of visual aids, e.g. album of pictures, style book or photos to agree outcome
 - The importance of the client feeling valued if references are made regarding personal comfort and heat settings of the hairdryer
 - The additional service options which may include offering refreshments (if available) or magazines to add value and general ambience, to personalise the service
 - Reasons why a client may rebook for future services or promote stylist/salon

Learners must understand the physical effects of blow-drying on the hair structure:

- Hygroscopic – the ability of hair to absorb moisture into the cortex. In its natural state hair is known as alpha keratin; however, the properties of hair are changed when it has been shampooed or become wet as weaker hydrogen bonds are broken down. This allows the hair to be stretched using heat and brushes when blow-drying. Once hair is stretched and dried into a new shape it becomes known as beta keratin. When drying hair it is important that the hair is thoroughly dried to stretch the hair temporarily into its new form. The hair must be allowed to cool to allow the hydrogen bonds to form properly in the hair. Hair that is finger dried will remain in its natural state

Learners must understand the effects of humidity on the hair:

- When hair has been blow-dried into its new stretched temporary form of beta keratin, it must be kept dry. Any addition of moisture – humidity – will cause the hair to revert back to its original alpha keratin state. An example could include a client with hair classification type 1a straight has had their hair blow-dried to give a temporary medium sized curl with volume. If the client has a bath when they get home from the salon, the humidity/steam from the bath will add moisture to the hair and cause the curl to drop and revert back to its true natural state of 1a straight

Learners must know why the hair must be kept damp during the blow-drying process:

- The hair must be kept damp during the blow-drying process to ensure that the hair remains in its natural alpha keratin state before it is dried in to its new stretched temporary form of beta keratin. If areas of the hair are allowed to dry before being blow-dried, it will not hold the desired effect

LO3 Know the products, tools and equipment required for blow-drying and styling hair

Learners must know the products required for blow-drying and styling:

- Products
 - Serum – adds moisture and shine and is ideal for dry brittle or chemically treated hair. Apply to wet or dry hair. Use sparingly on fine hair
 - Mousse – available with and without colouring agents, various strengths available from light to firm hold and can enhance the service when blow-drying. Suitable for most hair lengths. Apply to wet hair
 - Gel – produces a firm hold and is ideal for creating short textured or spiky finishes. Apply to wet or dry hair
 - Wax – small amounts are applied to dry hair to create a textured look and give a small degree of hold. Some waxes require softening in the hands first to make them malleable before application. Not suitable for very fine hair
 - Blow-dry lotions/creams – may contain chemicals that protect hair from the heat of equipment or humidity and enhances the finish. Apply to wet hair
 - 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
 - Hairspray (aerosol) – varying degrees of strength (soft to firm hold), bonds finished style in place. Apply sparingly to dry hair at a distance of 20cm, being aware of client and others inhaling product
 - Finishing spray/mist/gloss (aerosol) – adds a protective layer and gloss to dry hair, may be used after or instead of hairspray for natural soft finish. Apply very sparingly as over-use may weigh down hair. Check surroundings after use and before client moves – any product on the floor may be slippery and represent a hazard
 - Hair gloss lotion/cream – adds a protective layer and gloss to wet hair and smooths frizz. Suitable for type 3 b, c and 4 b, c classification hair type

Learners must know the tools required for blow-drying and styling:

- Tools
 - Round brushes – various diameters/radiuses produce movement, curl and/or volume, e.g. larger diameter brushes produce more volume and are more suited to creating movement in longer hair styles
 - Vent brush/rake brush – produces a softer, free-flowing and more casual effect to shorter hair
 - Flat brushes – various sizes, e.g. paddle or Denman produce smoother straighter results, not ideal for adding curl
 - Combs – wide tooth combs detangle hair when wet or can be used as a multi-purpose comb for sectioning or managing the hair through service
 - Dressing comb – creates a finished look, used to backcomb and style hair
 - Tail comb – may be used to section hair
 - Sectioning clips/clamps – used to section and manage the hair during the blow-drying service
 - Pin curl clips – used in blow-drying to secure curls

Learners must know the equipment required for blow-drying and styling:

- Equipment
 - Hairdryer – removes moisture from the hair and will have different airflow and temperature settings. High temperatures should not be used on fine, dry or fragile hair conditions
 - 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
 - Nozzle – attachment for hairdryer and condenses air flow specifically to a chosen area. Care should be used to ensure scalp burn is avoided

LO4 Be able to prepare for blow-drying and styling

Prepare and check the area, products, tools and equipment prior to the service:

- Preparation is an important feature of the blow-drying and styling service, not least because it enables learners to work safely and methodically. Learners will ensure that cleanliness and health and safety standards within the salon are maintained to enhance the client's overall satisfaction with the service

Prepare themselves and the work area prior to blow-dry service:

Preparation by the learner is essential to demonstrate a readiness and professionalism which will set client expectations and promote high standards of service

- Preparation of learners – learners must present themselves professionally, displaying
 - Clean hygienic appearance
 - Appropriate hair and make-up (as applicable)
 - Readiness for the service
 - A good attitude
 - Personality/persona fitting for the salon
 - Good communication and listening skills
 - Good posture maintenance throughout the blow-drying service
- Prepare the working area – learners will ensure
 - All products, tools and equipment are organised in advance, making provision for a diverse range of client needs
 - There is adequate room around the work area to allow safe use of all equipment
 - All work areas are free from hair, including basin, chair, trolley, work station/dressing unit and floor
 - Chairs are moved to ensure any dropped products are eliminated and wiped away, chair feet are checked for cleanliness and seats and back of chair wiped clean or fresh cover applied
 - Trolleys are systematically cleaned between services, removing unwanted items and replacing with fresh cleaned/sterilised items
 - Towels, capes and client outer gowns are clean and freshly laundered for service and removed after use
- Prepare products
 - Learners must ensure the listed range of products is available. Products should be displayed either at the dressing/work area, on a separate trolley/display stand or by a visual chart/marketing information. Learners must ensure that the client has a full range of products available. Sufficient products must be available which are in good condition, clean and appropriate for all possible blow-dry and styling services
- Prepare tools and equipment
 - Learners must ensure clean and sterilised tools are placed in logical order, ready for use on a clean towel or disposable paper towel, in order to prevent cross-infection
 - Hairdryer will be visually checked and ready to use
 - Other attachments such as a nozzle or diffuser should be available, clean and in good order, e.g. no cracks or signs of wear, to prevent hazard or risk

Prepare the client for service:

Learners will ensure that previous hair services have been carried out correctly and meet the satisfaction of the client. At the very least a shampooing service will have been completed. Learners must check there are no excess products remaining in the hair to inhibit the blow-drying service, the hair is in alpha keratin state and protective garments remain dry and intact

- To prepare the client, learners must
 - Remove obstructive jewellery or items that would inhibit the blow-drying service
 - Ensure the client is prepared in accordance with salon requirements
 - Adjust the height of the styling chair to avoid excessive bending by learners and maximise client comfort
 - Position a foot stand where necessary (or available) for additional client comfort
 - Ensure the client maintains the correct posture to avoid hazard or risk
 - Confirm that the client is comfortable at start of service

Explain and agree service outcome with the client:

- Complete and record tests
- Conduct a visual and manual check of the hair and scalp and check for visible contra-indications
- Identify hair classification
- Identify any influencing factors and discuss these with the client
- Agree choice of products with the client
- Agree choice of tools and equipment with the client

Demonstrate effectiveness in the salon when carrying out the service:

- Learners must demonstrate how effective they have been in performing blow-drying and styling of the hair including
 - Overall personal performance in the salon
 - Identifying their own strengths and weaknesses shown before, during and after the blow-drying service
 - Identifying client requirements
 - Identifying influencing factors
 - Sectioning and controlling the hair
 - Interchanging the tools and techniques used in the service
 - Checking client satisfaction
- Demonstrate a mixture of talent, knowledge and skills. Examples may include
 - Conversing with the client throughout the service
 - Ensuring client comfort throughout the service
 - Discussing further services to enhance the finished result
 - Overall performance in client care

LO5 Be able to provide a blow-dried style

Select products, tools and equipment to blow-dry and style:

- Learners must demonstrate they have identified and used the most suitable items to achieve the style
- Application of products and use of tools and equipment will be dependent on
 - Hair classification
 - Hair characteristics/growth pattern
 - Length
 - Condition
 - Density
 - Texture
 - Porosity
 - Influencing factors
- Products – learners must choose the most appropriate products to suit the style. Products chosen must aid the techniques used when blow-drying and learners must demonstrate correct choice to enhance the finish
- Tools – in selection of tools, learners must use the most appropriate items to blow-dry the desired style and be able to manipulate the hair whilst using the brushes and hairdryer
 - Learners will choose sectioning clips/clamps to divide hair, where appropriate depending upon length and style, into manageable areas for handling to ensure hair is thoroughly dry at the end of the service
 - Tools must not damage or become stuck in the hair
- Equipment – learners must
 - Use a hairdryer to create a finished style
 - Demonstrate that they can provide a constant airflow that does not cause discomfort to the client or damage to the hair or scalp
 - Show correct choice if working with hairdryer nozzles
 - Use a hairdryer to dry and then style the hair
 - Use a diffuser effectively to maximise curl and volume

Use safe and hygienic working methods throughout the service:

- Demonstrate they have clean products, clean and sterilised tools and have visually checked equipment for the service
- Use all products safely, both in application and storage
- Ensure the use of products does not cause harm or present a risk
- Use electrical equipment safely
- Remain in control of the equipment
- Demonstrate safe storage as some products may lose their ability to work or may present a risk or hazard, e.g. aerosols should be stored away from direct heat and sunlight
- Display good processes of application of products, e.g. carefully applying sprays/lotion or creams to avoid damaging the client's skin, ears or eyes
- Carry out a service without causing danger or damage to self, client or work areas intentionally or by accident, e.g. avoid placing hairdryer in unsuitable places
- Avoid inhaling products by self, client and others, especially when using finishing products, e.g. aerosol hairspray
- Identify potential risks and hazards – clean up spillages immediately, ensure there are no trailing wires, keep hairdryer air flow moving to prevent possible scalp burn

Use products, tools and equipment to produce the desired style:

- Products
 - Learners will demonstrate that they can use the correct products appropriate to the client's needs. An example of this would be using a blow-drying lotion on fine hair to provide protection, improve the texture, assist in the control of the hair and help maintain the style
 - Learners must use products that complement the style
 - Learners will apply products evenly, especially when coloured blow-dry lotions are used. Learners may use different application methods for products e.g. bowl and brush to ensure even distribution, or section hair when hair is thick or long
- Tools – learners must ensure all tools used are fit for purpose and tools are used correctly, e.g. using a wide tooth comb to detangle long hair from points to roots
- Equipment – learners must use electrical equipment correctly, e.g. the hairdryer should not be used to disperse hair cuttings from the area

Use a combination of techniques to achieve the desired outcome considering influencing factors:

- Learners will display a variety of controlling techniques, using products effectively to aid the finished result, demonstrating skills to manipulate and control the hair with chosen tools. Learners will dry and style the hair with these techniques without disrupting that part of the hair which has already been dried
- Techniques used in blow-drying will be dependent on the required finished style. Learners must
 - Ensure hair is wet at the start of service
 - Use the correct products for the hair classification/type
 - Apply products in logical sequence and appropriate to the service
 - Use tools that are appropriate for the desired finish
 - Use correct size of brush for the hair length to create the desired finish
 - Use additional electrical attachments to the hairdryer, e.g. a diffuser attachment to enhance natural curl
 - Ensure hair is dry once finished
 - Work in a timely and cost effective manner
- Techniques – learners will use and adapt techniques appropriately to create a finish taking into consideration all influencing factors. Learners must
 - Ensure the hair is not pulled beyond its tensile strength
 - Demonstrate dexterity in the management of both the selected brushes and hairdryer throughout the blow-drying service
 - Dry hair in logical sequence
 - Demonstrate suitable management of equipment and control airflow from the hairdryer at all times keeping it maintained within the confines of the client and work area. The air flow should not rough up the cuticles

Provide in-service checks with the client:

- Learners will use appropriate communication and questioning techniques to check on client's comfort, heat settings and general well-being throughout the service
- Learners must ensure checks with the clients confirm agreed service
- Learners must demonstrate that the checks made enhance and disguise influencing factors and that creative ability and attention to detail are applied, e.g. mousse or blow-dry lotion/cream and use of different size brushes would add volume to a flat crown

Provide advice and recommendations to the client:

- Learners will ensure they have promoted the benefits of the service and provided homecare techniques where required for the client to maintain their style. For example, the client would be advised not to take a hot bath immediately after the service as atmospheric moisture will cause hair to 'drop' and the finished style will be affected. Where possible, home techniques for prolonging the finished style could be demonstrated to the client, e.g. simple pinning of long hair to maintain curls or waves

Conduct post-service maintenance of work area ready to meet the next client:

- Maintenance of the work area will maintain health and safety procedures within the salon. Learners must ensure they demonstrate that they can carry out post-service maintenance
- Identify potential risks and hazards – clean up spillages immediately, ensure there are no trailing wires, remain aware of hairdryer temperature preventing possible scalp or hair damage or burns
- Check and update service equipment files and records
- Maintain cleanliness of work station/dressing area by cleaning area and replacing all consumable items
- Maintain cleanliness of products and tools by wiping, sterilising or replacing as appropriate

Maintain accurate client records:

- Learners must maintain accurate records by keeping client service and equipment files up to date. A full history of the service must be recorded for future reference to include any products used or tests taken. Where appropriate, maintenance of electrical equipment record card/files will verify equipment testing, faults and general repairs for specific items
 - Complete the record card/electronic file with history of service
 - Ensure all products are recorded
 - Ensure amendments/adaptations to service are recorded
 - Ensure notes for future recommendations are recorded

Skin cancer awareness

Please note this information will not be assessed for the achievement of this unit.

Public awareness of skin cancer has never been higher, and yet skin cancer remains the fastest growing cancer in the UK, especially amongst young people. The chances of a positive outcome can be dramatically increased with early identification and diagnosis.

Professionals in hair, beauty, sports massage and health and wellbeing industries work closely with clients and in many cases have sight of areas of skin which may not be easily visible to the client. An informed awareness of the signs, symptoms and changes of appearance to be aware of when checking for early signs of cancer is a crucial tool for the conscientious practitioner in order to provide the most thorough service and in some cases, possibly lifesaving information signposting.

Signs to look for when checking moles include utilising the ABCDE guide:

A - Asymmetry – the two halves of the area/mole may differ in their shape and not match.

B - Border – the edges of the mole area may be irregular or blurred and sometimes show notches or look 'ragged'.

C - Colour – this may be uneven and patchy. Different shades of black, brown and pink may be seen.

D - Diameter – most but not all melanomas are at least 6mm in diameter. If any mole gets bigger or changes see your doctor.

E - Elevation/evolving – elevation means the mole is raised above the surface and has an uneven surface. Looks different from the rest or changing in size, shape or colour. Anyone can get a suspicious mole or patch of skin checked out for free by the NHS by visiting their doctor, who may then refer to a dermatologist (an expert in diagnosing skin cancer).

If you require any additional NHS information please refer to <https://www.nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer/symptoms/skin-cancer>

If your learners are interested in learning more about skin cancer awareness alongside this qualification, VTCT runs the following qualification: VTCT Level 2 Award in Skin Cancer Awareness for Non-Healthcare Professionals.

This qualification has been specifically designed for those working in the sports massage, health and wellbeing, beauty, hairdressing and barbering sectors. It will enable learners to identify any changes to their client's skin and to highlight those changes to the client using appropriate language and communication skills. It will enable the learner to raise awareness of skin cancer and signpost their clients to public information about skin cancer.

This qualification will enable hair, beauty and wellbeing professionals to gain the appropriate knowledge and communication skills required to provide non-diagnostic, professional advice and information to clients in a discrete, empathetic and confidential manner.

For more information please refer to the Record of Assessment book:

<https://qualifications.vtct.org.uk/finder/qualfinder/1Record%20of%20Assessment%20Book/AG20529.pdf>

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria will be applied to the graded practical assessment. In order to pass this unit, learners must at a minimum achieve all pass criteria. The pass criteria relate to the proficient demonstration of skills and knowledge. All criteria within a given grade must be achieved to be awarded that grade.

Learning outcome The learner must:	Pass The learner can:	Merit To achieve a merit grade, in addition to achievement of the pass criteria, the learner can:	Distinction To achieve a distinction grade, in addition to achievement of the pass and merit criteria, the learner can:
LO4 Be able to prepare for blow-drying and styling	P1 Prepare and check the area, products, tools and equipment prior to the service P2 Prepare themselves and the work area prior to the blow-dry service P3 Prepare the client for service P4 Explain and agree service outcome with the client P5 Demonstrate effectiveness in the salon when carrying out the service	M1 Adjust communication techniques to meet individual client needs M2 Provide advice and recommendations for products and additional services M3 Use a variety of techniques to provide a blow-dry and style service	D1 Explain the choice of products, tools, equipment and techniques used throughout the service D2 The finished style reflects a commercially skilled technique
LO5 Be able to provide a blow-dried style	P6 Select products, tools and equipment to blow-dry and style P7 Use safe and hygienic working methods throughout the service P8 Use products, tools and equipment to produce the desired style P9 Use a combination of techniques to achieve the desired outcome considering influencing factors P10 Provide in-service checks with the client P11 Provide advice and recommendations to the client P12 Conduct post-service maintenance of work area ready to meet the next client P13 Maintain accurate client records		

Assessment guidance

Assessors must use the amplified assessment guidance in this section to judge whether assessment criteria have been achieved in the graded practical assessment.

P1 Prepare and check the area, products, tools and equipment prior to the service

Learners must demonstrate they have set up the work area ready for the client by selecting appropriate products, tools and equipment to provide a blow-drying service. The work trolley is located on the lead hand side of learners, i.e. if learners are left handed the trolley would be on the left. The equipment is visually checked, along with product availability. All areas must be wiped down, switches turned off and electrical equipment left safely to cool down, then stored away. Fresh protective clothing must be acquired; the product display area and all tools must be wiped clean/sterilised as applicable.

P2 Prepare themselves and the work area prior to the blow-dry service

Learners must show that they have taken time to prepare themselves and be ready with a clean, fresh and hygienic personal appearance. Hair and make-up (as appropriate) must give a suitable professional impression.

Learners must demonstrate readiness to greet clients with a positive and welcoming attitude. Learners must be present themselves showing commercial readiness and professionalism in line with client expectations and promoting high standards of service.

P3 Prepare the client for services

Learners must demonstrate that they have prepared the client for services in a work station/area that is clean and tidy. Learners must select clean protective garments, towels and capes, ensuring that the client is comfortable and the chair height is correct.

P4 Explain and agree service outcome with the client

With the client, the learner will demonstrate that they have agreed the service outcome and explained the service procedure. Learners must conduct a visual and manual check of the hair and scalp to check for contra-indications. Learners must check hair growth patterns and identify any influencing factors and discuss these with the client.

Learners must agree with the client the choice of equipment and products to create the finished service using questioning and visual aids, as appropriate.

P5 Demonstrate effectiveness in the salon when carrying out the service

Learners must demonstrate they have effectively carried out a blow-dry and style hair service. Learners must show efficient use of their time and behave in a professional manner throughout the service. Learners must be able to consider client expectations and how any influencing factors may impact on the result of the service. Learners must be able to combine equipment and techniques effectively to enhance the end result and show acceptable levels of dexterity, skill and knowledge at this level, i.e. professional and commercially viable.

Learners must talk to clients to put them at ease and ensure client comfort, aftercare advice and client satisfaction throughout the service. Learners must be able to identify and reflect on any areas of weakness and in what ways they aim to improve personal performance, set targets and develop themselves as junior stylists. Learners must identify other colleagues to find out additional specialist information.

Learners must show overall consideration of the team and be helpful and responsive to other work colleagues' needs.

P6 Select products, tools and equipment to blow-dry and style

Learners must select products, tools and equipment appropriate to the client's needs to facilitate the blow-dry and style service. Learners are required to identify the most appropriate items taking into consideration any adaptations that may be necessary due to hair classification and characteristics. As an example, products displayed at the work area could include a range of homecare items that the client may wish to look at as a precursor for possible future sales opportunities. Chosen tools will be fit for purpose and offer the client the opportunity to question their use and suitability. For example, a client may have had a restyle cut prior to the blow-drying service and require information about purchasing or using brushes at home to complement and help recreate the finish.

P7 Use safe and hygienic working methods throughout the service

Learners must demonstrate that they can recognise hazards and risks when using electrical blow-drying equipment. Learners must ensure that the working area is safe and consider others who may be working in close proximity. The electrical hairdryer must not interfere with the client or others within the salon. Learners must ensure that there are no trip hazards, and leads from equipment are secured safely. When equipment is not in use it must be placed safely without possible cause of burning or damage to self/client/others or surrounding work areas. Manufacturers' instructions must be followed at all times for safe handling and use.

Products are used without harm to self/client/others.

When spraying aerosols learners must ensure they are at a distance of 20cm and, where necessary, protection is offered to the client's face and eyes.

As an example, learners must ensure they have identified any spillages/leakages and taken the correct course of action to deal with any spills or leaks promptly. Where tools or client protection garments are dropped on the floor, they should be replaced with clean and fresh items.

Where aerosol gloss or mist finishing spray is used, learners must demonstrate that the floor is safe to walk on and free from product. Learners must wipe the floor prior to the client moving from the chair.

P8 Use products, tools and equipment to produce the desired style

Learners must use all products, tools and equipment safely and ensure their choices are suitable to produce the desired service outcome. All products must complement the blow-dried style.

For example, a client has had a colouring and cutting service; lightened slices have been inserted into the front of the coloured red base; the client's hair has been restyled to produce a short spiked effect on the crown area and a dramatic feathered and spiked fringe to complement the colour; the blow-dry will enhance and complete the previous services. Product usage may include blow-dry lotion at the start with wax and hairspray finish, or gel application and hairspray finish. Example of tools used to achieve a firm curly blow-dry would include a small diameter round brush. Equipment usage would include hairdryer with nozzle. For a full style maximising natural curl and volume, a diffuser could be used.

P9 Use a combination of techniques to achieve the desired outcome considering influencing factors

Learners must produce a finish that combines techniques appropriate to client's hair growth pattern and lifestyle. Learners must demonstrate they have selected the correct product and combs to be used before, during and after the blow-dry. For example, the client has a growth pattern defining a cow lick in the hair; learners must ensure hair is blow-dried using the natural movement to prolong the style. As another example, the client has a double crown and has a one length bob below the ears hairstyle, the ends of which the client likes tightly curled to prolong the finish. The learner, when reaching the crown area will firstly use a flat brush to straighten the crown area followed by a large round brush if height is required.

Learners must section the hair and ensure the brushes; air direction and nozzle are used, to smooth the cuticle, with heat temperature medium to low. Additional use of electrical equipment must be avoided. Moisturiser and/or finishing spray should be applied.

Learners must demonstrate they can use and combine different techniques in producing a style. Hair must be thoroughly dry when finished and meet the client's requirements. Learners must verbally confirm client satisfaction.

P10 Provide in-service checks with the client

Learners must demonstrate throughout the service they have checked on client comfort. Learners must demonstrate that they have adapted and tailored the use of heat and checked that tools used are not causing discomfort to the client.

P11 Provide advice and recommendations to the client

Learners must demonstrate that they have provided the client with aftercare advice. Advice must include methods of drying hair at home, how to personalise style at home using products, advice on maintaining the style and recommendations for future services.

P12 Conduct post-service maintenance of work area ready to meet the next client

Learners must maintain the work area and follow health and safety procedures within the salon. Learners must ensure they demonstrate that they can carry out post-service maintenance by identifying potential risks and hazards, cleaning up spillages immediately, ensuring there are no trailing leads and remain aware and in control of the hairdryer's temperature preventing possible scalp or hair damage or burns. Learners must check and update service equipment files and records and maintain cleanliness of their work station/dressing area by cleaning the area and replacing all consumable items. Maintenance must also include the cleanliness of products and tools by wiping, sterilising or replacing as appropriate.

P13 Maintain accurate client records

Learners must show that they have at a minimum recorded the full service, personal details and any tests where applicable for a new client. For existing clients a check on current history and updated information should be recorded. All client records must include the current service and products used.

Where there are opportunities, learners must add accumulated loyalty points or similar (if appropriate). For example, some social media sites offer a free blow-dry, or similar incentives, to one lucky winner monthly/quarterly if clients 'like and share' the home page of the salon. Other salons offer a free service when a number of points are collected; points are usually awarded for every £5 or £10 spent within the salon.

For blow-drying, learners must record any specific characteristics of the hair or adapted style. An example of this may be where a regular client had a fall resulting in a bang to the head which has left an area feeling tender. The service has been adapted by heat source turned down and directed away from the scalp and careful handling of the hair with no additional tension around the brush when drying the area.

M1 Adjust communication techniques to meet individual client needs

Learners must listen to the client's expectations and present other options, especially if for example the client's hair is physically not suitable for the desired style and presents an unrealistic outcome. Learners must respond positively to the client by displaying excellent communication skills when presenting possible alternative solutions to the service. Learners must demonstrate throughout the service that all communication with the client is ethical, respectful, unobtrusive and inoffensive.

Learners will need to demonstrate they have conversed fully with the client before commencing the blow-dry and style service not only to determine the exact requirements, but for the client to understand the learner's requirements. As an example, the client requests an unkempt volume look on their short one length bob. To achieve this the learner may suggest the use of additional finishing products that would involve client consent. The learner will need to explain the procedure they would use in order to achieve this style.

M2 Provide advice and recommendations for products and additional services

Learners will effectively judge the overall characteristics of the hair with the client, providing detailed information about salon services and suitable salon products that will enhance the client's hair condition or style. Learners will relate their recommendations specifically for the client's individual needs.

The client may be unsure about a new hair style especially if it involves a major change.

For example in order to promote a colouring service learners may use colour hair swatches placed strategically in the client's hair to demonstrate how a colour change might look. In blow-drying, learners might temporarily pin the hair in place to show how a shorter style might look, or create more curls to show how a perming service might enhance the style. Samples of products for the client to try at home may be offered.

Learners will provide and record written information for the client and salon records of recommendations. Further salon services may include colouring, lightening, perming, cutting, conditioning or specialist hair and scalp treatment services.

M3 Use a variety of techniques to provide a blow-dry and style service

Learners must demonstrate techniques and skills showing they can manipulate the hair with a brush, whilst holding the hairdryer and directing heat to style the hair, without causing damage to the cuticle. Learners must demonstrate that they have worked in a methodical order and are in control of tools and equipment throughout the blow-drying service.

For example, learners could demonstrate that sections of hair can be dried systematically, without undue tension or pulling, in a timely fashion, without the need to keep stopping.

When blow-drying shorter hair into curls, the right diameter brush sizes are chosen according to the different hair lengths at back, sides and top of head to create a uniformed curl finish.

Learners must produce a commercial and highly professional standard of finish without the additional use of electrical finishing equipment, e.g. tongs or straightener

D1 Explain the choice of products, tools, equipment and techniques used throughout the service

Learners must explain their reasons for choosing products, tools, equipment and techniques based on the characteristics, classification, porosity, density, texture and hygroscopic features of the hair.

An example could include using the wet application of different products on excessively dry mid lengths and ends, with a different product used on the scalp, e.g. adding moisture and oil to mid lengths and ends and an alternative product on the scalp to minimise and avoid adding to a natural excessive oiliness.

Another example may be if elasticity testing prior to a service has identified the client's poor hair condition; the learner has correctly chosen a specialist treatment to assist repair for the hair condition, adapted the blow-dry to disguise the deterioration of the hair and advised suitable further hair treatments.

D2 The finished style reflects a commercially skilled technique

The completed blow-dry result reflects a professionally finished salon result showing a design that encompasses the characteristics of the client. Examples of a finished style may include a straight hair finish. Cuticles are smooth and even, hair naturally flows without kinks or curls. Equally where curls/waves are produced on long hair, these are uniform and even, with points of hair having the same attention and finish as the lengths of the hair.

Products and tools used are complementary to the required finish and chosen appropriately at the start of the service. The natural fall of the hair and any shorter front sections or fringes, have had attention to produce a blended finish to complement the finish.

The hair does not display brush marks or indentations.

The blow-dried result demonstrates techniques that have been used competently to maximise the appeal and longevity of the finished style.

Resources

The special resources required for this unit are access to a real or realistic working environment which supports the provision of blow-drying and styling services. Learners must be provided with all products, tools and equipment that appear in the range statement.

Learners must also have access to health and safety standards, manufacturers' instructions, electrical hairdryer with attachments, i.e. nozzle and diffuser, tools and full range of products.

Delivery guidance

Teachers are encouraged to use innovative, practical and engaging delivery methods to enhance the learning experience. Learners may benefit from:

- Meaningful employer engagement so they relate what is being learned to the real world of work and understand commercial competency and product, tools and equipment usage
- Work experience within a commercial hair salon so they can practise their skills in a real environment
- Using interactive information and technology systems and hardware so they can learn about concepts and theories; research current trends; research product knowledge and produce visual aids

Links with other units

This unit is closely linked with the following units:

UCO34M Health, safety and hygiene

Health and safety greatly underpins the present unit. Learners will be required to apply knowledge and understanding of health and safety for all areas and when providing a client service in a real or realistic working environment.

UHB169M Advise and consult with clients

Client consultation is integral to all hairdressing services and underpins the choice of tools, products, equipment and techniques required for blow-drying and styling hair. Effective consultation supports the correct identification of hair classification and characteristics that affect the blow-dry result in addition to any contra-indications which may prevent or affect the service taking place. Client consultation should not be established as something that only takes place at the beginning of any service, but should be on-going and used to re-confirm agreed plans and reassure the client during the service.

UHB175M Shampoo, condition and treat the hair and scalp

Hair in most cases requires shampooing prior to blow-drying; Learners must be able to identify the correct shampoo, conditioner or treatment for the hair and identify the hair type and condition to use the correct products. Application and rinsing has been correctly completed to ensure that the blow-drying and styling are not impaired by poor technique or products left in the hair.

UHB176M Style hair with electrical equipment

Electrically styled finishes can enhance and add further dimension to a blow-dried style. It may be offered as additional services to change or prolong a blow-dried finished result. Electrical techniques can be used to redress a blow-dry that has lost its style through exposure to humidity or physical change or from day-time into night-time/occasion styling.

UHB171M Colour and lighten Hair

Colouring and lightening hair can very often precede a blow-dry and style service. Hair that has been creatively coloured will require consideration to maximise and create the desired effect from the end result. If colour has been completed by another stylist clear communication is essential to optimise all aspects of the completed look and client satisfaction.

UHB172M Cut ladies hair

Cutting, either by trimming and reshaping or completely restyling hair, will very often precede a blow-dry and style service. Hair that has been trimmed, reshaped or cut into a new style will require consideration of tools products and techniques to maximise and create the desired effect. If the cutting service has been completed by another stylist clear communication is essential to follow the cut to get the best completed look and ensure full client satisfaction.

Graded synoptic assessment

At the end of the qualification of which this unit forms part, there will be a graded synoptic assessment which will assess the learner's ability to identify and use effectively in an integrated way an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories, and knowledge from a number of units from within the qualification. It is therefore necessary and important that units are delivered and assessed together and synoptically to prepare learners suitably for their final graded assessment.

Version	Details of amendments	Date
v5	Skin cancer awareness page added	14/06/17