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# Qualification Specification

BT4A11 – VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Award in  
Dermaplaning

Version 3.0

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# About VTCT Skills

VTCT Skills is a market-leading specialist vocational and technical Awarding Organisation.

We offer a comprehensive range of qualifications, assessments and services in 17 sectors, including Hairdressing, Beauty, Logistics and Early Years. Working closely with employers and training providers, our ranges are backed by industry and trusted around the world.

With over 3,000 training locations, we help over 120,000 learners achieve professional skills that transform their lives, every year.

For more information, please visit our website or contact our dedicated Customer Support Team via email; [customersupport@vtctskills.org.uk](mailto:customersupport@vtctskills.org.uk) or call +44 (0)23 8068 4500.

[www.vtctskills.org.uk](http://www.vtctskills.org.uk)

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# 1. Qualification at a glance

<b>Qualification title</b>	VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Dermaplaning
<b>Qualification number</b>	610/1553/2
<b>Product code</b>	BT4A11
<b>First registration date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022
<b>Age range</b>	18+
<b>Total Qualification Time (TQT)</b>	26
<b>Guided Learning (GL) hours</b>	16
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>To be awarded this qualification, learners must successfully achieve the following assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practical Examination</li><li>• Theory Examination</li><li>• Case Studies</li></ul>
<b>Overall qualification grading</b>	<p>The overall qualification is graded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fail/Pass/Merit/Distinction</li></ul>
<b>Entry requirements</b>	Learners are required to hold a Level 3 qualification in beauty therapy.

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## 2. Purpose Statement

### 2.1 Who is this qualification for?

The VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Dermaplaning is a beauty aesthetic qualification aimed at level 3 qualified practitioners aged 18 and over, and who wish to add dermaplaning to their repertoire of treatment offerings.

Learners are required to hold a level 3 beauty therapy qualification or equivalent qualification including anatomy and physiology.

### 2.2 What does this qualification cover?

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

Learners must achieve the mandatory unit:

- Enhance Appearance using Dermaplaning Techniques

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

### 2.3 What could this qualification lead to?

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

- VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Certificate in Skin Peeling
- VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Certificate in Skin Needling
- VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Certificate in Ultrasound
- VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Scalp Micropigmentation Treatments
- VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 5 Award in Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration

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## 3. Qualification structure

To be awarded the VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 4 Award in Dermaplaning learners must achieve:

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

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

The minimum TQT required to achieve this qualification is **26**.

VTCT Skills product code	Unit title	Level	GL	Unit reference number
Mandatory units				
UBT445	Enhance Appearance using Dermaplaning Techniques	4	16	R/650/4324

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## 4. Centre requirements

### 4.1 Approval and recognition

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

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

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

### 4.2 Resources

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

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

It is the centre's responsibility to ensure:

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

### 4.3 Teaching staff

In order to deliver this qualification, teaching staff must:

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

## 4.4 Centre-based assessors

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

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

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

## 4.5 Total Qualification Time (TQT)

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

TQT is comprised of the following two elements:

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

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



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## 5. Assessment

### 5.1 Summary of assessment methods

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

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

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

### 5.2 Unit assessment methods

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

Unit product code	Case Studies	Theory Examination	Practical Examination
UBT445	✓	✓	✓

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

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

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

## 5.4 Theory Examination

Theory examinations are externally set and externally marked by VTCT Skills.

The specification for the external theoretical examination is detailed below.

Theory examination (UBT445)	
Availability (Exam sessions)	To be taken on demand as agreed by the awarding organisation. Available to sit online.
Grading	Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction
Units covered	UBT445 – Enhance Appearance using Dermaplaning Techniques
Contribution to overall qualification grade	50%
Type of examination	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) to cover the assessment criteria within the unit for LO1 and LO2 only.

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

### 5.4.1 Retaking external theory examinations

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

### 5.4.2 Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

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

### 5.4.3 Practical Examination

The content of LO3 and are LO4 covered by a practical examination and case studies (see below).

The practical examination will be conducted by an external examiner; either through direct observation at the centre or through the use of remote moderation using live streaming, facilitated by a centre-based internal assessor.

VTCT Skills carries out a range of quality assurance activities to monitor the standards of assessment taking place in centres.

Low or very low risk centres can also avail of an external practical examiner visit at their discretion and from time to time all centres may be subject to a physical external quality assurance visit by VTCT Skills.

In preparation for the practical examination, centres are advised to ensure learners have carried out a series of formatively assessed case studies, comprising of complete practical treatments, in accordance with the practical assessment criteria for the qualification.

It is essential centres use the Practical Assessment Criteria document in order to prepare learners for the Practical Examination. This can be found on the VTCT Skills website.

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

Practical Examination (BT4A11.PE1)	
Availability	To be scheduled through the VTCT Skills booking system, whether being remotely moderated by an External Moderator or conducted by an in-person External Examiner.
Grading model	Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction
Units covered	UBT445 – Enhance Appearance using Dermaplaning Techniques
Contribution to overall qualification grade	50%
Type of assessment	Observation of practical client treatment

#### 5.4.4 Case Studies

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

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

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

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

#### 5.4.5 Practical assessment criteria for case studies

This information is for reference only, the case study documentation can be downloaded from the VTCT Skills website.

Assessment for Dermaplaning		
Assessment Criteria The learner has:	P	R
prepared self, client and area for treatment in line with health and safety protocols and legislation, ensured that all resources were ergonomically positioned and treatment area was well lit and magnified		
performed a full consultation, checked that all relevant tests had been performed and the results of the tests, and checked contra-indications to confirm the client is suitable for treatment		
discussed the treatment protocol and sensation, confirmed and agreed the areas to be treated with the client		
used a range of communication skills, discussed and confirmed realistic and achievable treatment objectives, including terminal and vellus hair, likely healing process and associated time frames		
discussed possible contra-actions and checked the client's understanding regarding the importance of adherence to aftercare protocols and future treatments		
provided information regarding the 'cooling off period' and obtained the client's signed informed consent to proceed with the treatment		
showed the client the sealed single packaged blade to demonstrate good hygiene, checked the packaging was intact, checked and recorded the expiry date		
positioned client and self appropriately for the treatment, ensured full support and access to the treatment areas to minimise risk of strain or injury		
carried out skin sensitivity tests to confirm the client's suitability for treatment		

Assessment for Dermaplaning		
Assessment Criteria The learner has:	P	R
performed a visual examination of the client's skin to establish the skin type, characteristics and skin condition		
demonstrated pre-treatment cleansing and skin sterilisation and took pre-treatment photographs where appropriate, gained written/signed client consent		
selected appropriate PPE and sterile dressing packs, created a sterile field and put on sterile, single use gloves in an aseptic manner		
selected, checked and prepared the scalpel/blade, sterilised handle and loaded blade in an aseptic manner		
performed a safe, effective dermaplaning treatment using appropriate methods, applied adequate support and adapted techniques as necessary to achieve treatment objectives		
monitored the treatment area throughout and checked both client wellbeing and effectiveness of treatment and gave reassurance as necessary		
worked to a commercially acceptable time and completed the treatment in line with treatment objectives, removed excess surface debris and applied post treatment products as recommended		
demonstrated safe disposal of sharps, products, equipment, consumables and contaminated waste in line with organisational requirements and legislation		
evaluated treatment outcomes, took post treatment photographs where appropriate and gained client feedback including signed approval of the treatment results		
gave verbal and written aftercare recommendations including advice on further treatments and appropriate intervals required		
recorded all treatment details in line with organisational requirements and legislation		

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## 6. Grading

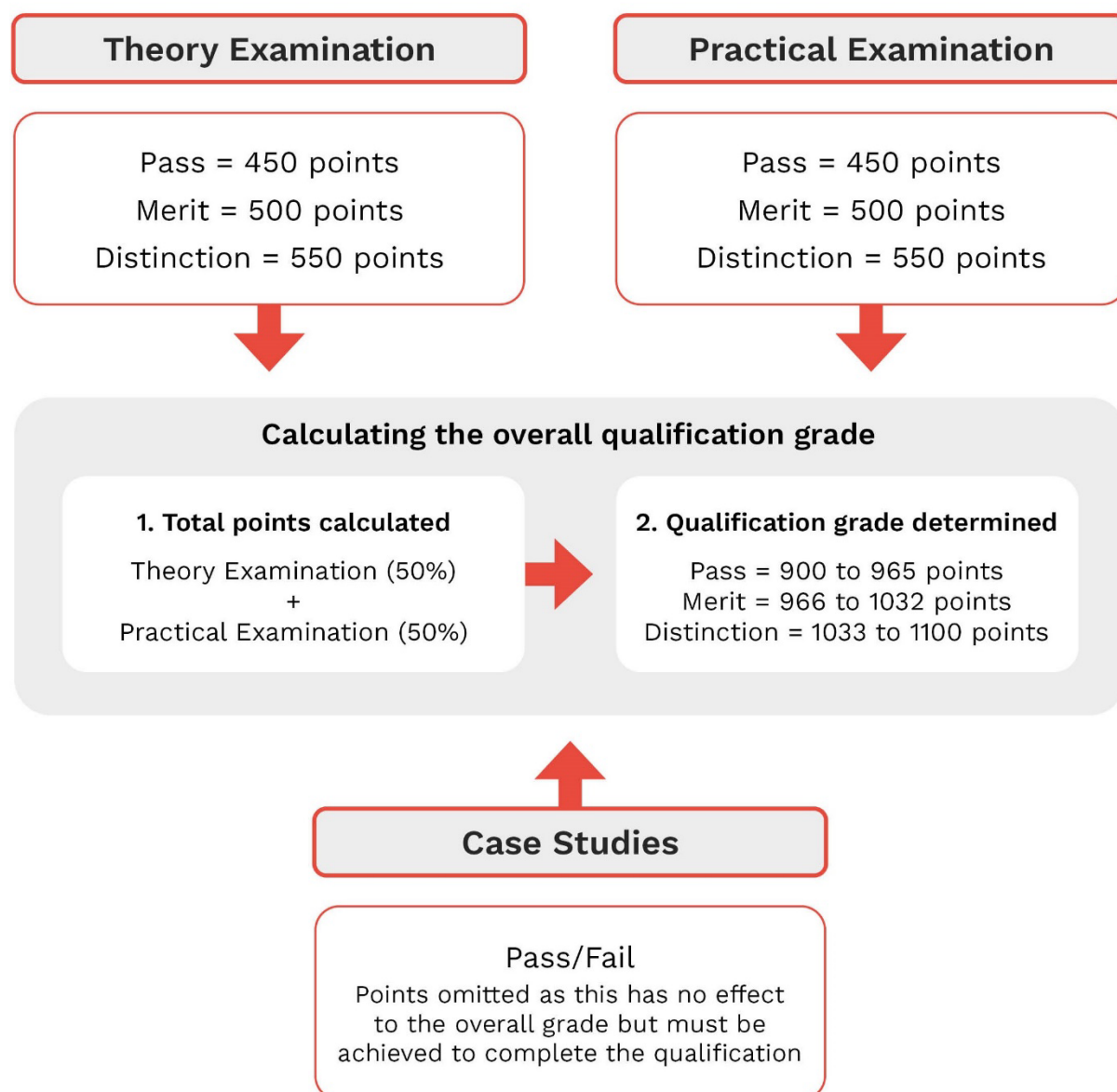
### 6.1 Overview

This qualification is graded Pass/Merit/Distinction.

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

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

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



## 6.2 Grade boundary review

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

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# 7 External Examination and Moderation

## 7.1 External Examiner Visits

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

On a centre visit an examiner:

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

## 7.2 External Moderator

VTCT Skills carries out a range of quality assurance activities to monitor the standards of assessment taking place in centres.

Centres rated by their VTCT Skills external quality assurer or practical examiner, as being **very low risk or low risk** can avail of the remote moderation option for the practical exam.

The process of remote moderation of the practical exam, requires a suitably qualified centre-based assessor to observe and mark the practical exam for every learner. Simultaneously, a live-streamed External Moderator will observe and mark the practical exam for every learner, using the multiple device set up, within Microsoft Teams, to facilitate the viewing of multiple practical observations at the same time.

VTCT Skills has published a guidance document which sets out all the scheduling, set-up and delivery requirements for facilitating live-stream remote moderation at your centre using MS Teams. VTCT Skills can also facilitate other platforms for remote moderation.

Centres rated as **high or very high risk** by their VTCT Skills external quality assurer or practical examiner, shall not be eligible for remote moderation. These centres will be visited physically by an external examiner who will conduct the practical exam for every learner.

## 7.3 Spot Checking

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

For more information, visit the VTCT Skills website.



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## 8. Unit structure

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

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

## Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v1.0	01/10/2022	First published	Product and Regulation Coordinator
v2.0	09/11/2022	Updates to moderation	Product and Regulation Coordinator
v3.0	01/01/2025	New branding	Qualifications Administrator