
Unit Specification

iUHB333 – Cut hair using on trend barbering techniques

Unit reference number: A/618/4187

Level: 3

Guided Learning (GL) hours: 121

Overview

The aim of this unit is to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of cutting hair using on trend barbering techniques in order to create personalised and individual images for clients.

The ability to combine and adapt a variety of different barbering cutting techniques, which includes precision cutting and texturising to create a variety of different images, is required in this unit. Learners will need to maintain a high level of health, safety and hygiene throughout the unit.

Additionally, learners must reflect the barbering industry in their personal appearance and demonstrate effective communication skills.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, learners will:

LO1 Be able to provide cutting services using on trend barbering techniques

LO2 Understand how health and safety policies and procedures affect cutting services when using on trend barbering techniques

LO3 Understand the factors that may influence cutting services when using on trend barbering techniques

LO4 Understand the tools, equipment, products and on trend barbering techniques used for cutting services

Unit content

LO1 Be able to provide cutting services using on trend barbering techniques

Prepare for cutting services using on trend barbering techniques

Taught content to include

- Preparation of learners should include:
 - Personal image, ensuring industry standards of dress
 - Clean and hygienic appearance, e.g. avoidance of overpowering odours – tobacco, heavy aftershave/perfume
 - Good communication and listening skills
 - Correct posture with weight evenly balanced
 - Correct personal protective equipment worn
- 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, if using a hand held dryer to dry and/or style the hair after cutting
 - Products on display to be clean of dust and hair
 - Tools and equipment to be clean and sterilised
 - Electrical equipment to be visually checked before use, for example, 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
 - Removal of obstructive piercings or jewellery
 - Check client record card (where appropriate) for previous services and client history
 - Check all appropriate tests have been undertaken (if required)

Apply safe and hygienic methods of working throughout services

Taught content to include

- Ensuring there is sufficient stock, which is used appropriately to minimise the wastage of products
- Ensuring products, tools and equipment are correctly handled, stored, clean, readily available and all hygienic precautions are followed to minimise the risk of damage or cross-infection
- Cleansing/sterilising tools and equipment
- Working safely throughout the service to minimise risk, harm or injury to self or others
- Ensuring own good posture is maintained throughout the service
- Ensuring the client maintains the correct posture and comfort throughout the service to avoid a hazard or a risk when cutting the hair, for example, a risk of cutting the client's ear if the client's head is not correctly positioned
- Minimising the risk of harm or injury to themselves and others when using electrical equipment
- Ensuring hygienic working practices throughout the service including own personal hygiene, e.g. eliminating offensive body odour or strong smell of tobacco
- Making effective use of working time, e.g. allowing sufficient time for an on trend haircut
- Removing hair cuttings from the client's skin promptly to prevent discomfort or irritation to the client
- Clearing away/sweeping the hair from the working area to prevent accidents by slipping on the hair
- Disposing of hair cuttings appropriately into the correct receptacle

Consult with clients to confirm the desired look

Taught content to include

- Undertaking appropriate tests and recording outcomes to include:
 - Elasticity test
 - Porosity test
- Assessing the hair conditions for contra-indications and suitability for cutting services to include:
 - Hair classification
 - Hair characteristics
 - Hair elasticity, porosity, texture, condition, growth patterns and hair length
- Assessing the scalp condition to assess for contra-indications and the suitability of the cutting service to include:
 - Cuts, sores and abrasions
- Consulting and confirming with the client before cutting commences to agree on the chosen on trend look and the expected finished result
- Explaining each stage of the cutting service to the client
- Agreeing the products, process and possible equipment to be used
- Checking throughout the service to meet the client's needs
- Using visual aids where appropriate, e.g. photos (style book), an internet search for images of on trend looks
- The importance of informing the client of the likely cost, duration and expected outcome of the service
- The legal significance of client questioning and the recording of the client's responses to questioning

Confirm with clients the desired effect

Taught content to include

- Discussing client's needs and requirements
- Discussing limitations or adaptations that may be required, e.g. the need to use a styling product to enhance the finished on trend haircut
- The importance of informing the client of the likely cost, duration and expected outcome of the service

Select suitable products, tools and equipment for cutting services using on trend barbering techniques

Taught content to include

- Products to include:
 - Water spray – keeps hair damp during the haircut
 - Detangling solution – used to help detangle and prevent knotting during the haircut where appropriate
- Tools to include:
 - Scissors – used to remove length and bulk from the hair. Creates blunt, textured and/or tapered ends to the hair
 - Thinning scissor – used to remove bulk, without losing length
 - Texturising scissors – used to thin the hair and add texture to the final image
 - Razors – used to remove bulk and length from the hair, creates textured and tapered effects throughout the hair length and ends
 - Clippers – removes length from the hair and may be used for neckline shaping/tidying/fading
 - Clipper attachments – added to the clippers allowing hair length to be shortened using different size grades:
 - Grade 1 - 3mm
 - Grade 2 - 6mm
 - Grade 3 - 9mm
 - Grade 4 - 12mm
 - Grade 5 - 15mm
 - Grade 6 - 18mm
 - Grade 7 - 21mm
 - Grade 8 - 24mm
 - Trimmers – removes length. Smaller, lighter and more versatile than clippers, ideal for sideburns and design work
 - Foils for removing the final hair from scalp for skin fades
 - Combs – small tooth comb used to provide more tension when fading the nape area. Wider tooth comb used for less tension when cutting and to detangle the hair

- Equipment to include:
 - Barbering cape – used to protect the client’s clothes and the neck area from hair cuttings
 - Cutting collar – used to protect the client’s clothes and the neck area from hair cuttings
 - Mirror – used to show the client the sides and back of the haircut or to confirm required length to be cut
 - Neck brush – to remove unwanted hair cuttings from around the client
 - Hairdryer – to dry, style or remove excess moisture from the hair after cutting
 - Eye pads – placed over client’s eyes when creating eyebrow designs, dispose of after use
 - Neck strips (if used) – placed around the neckline to protect the client when working on shorter styles to avoid hair clippings slipping down below the barbering cape. Dispose of after use

Carry out cutting services using on trend barbering services

Taught content to include

- Ensure the client is positioned correctly and at the right height and the position is adjusted when necessary, for example, when cutting the nape area the client’s head should be tilted forward
- Ensure own posture is correct for the service, e.g. weight evenly balanced
- Sectioning the hair, working methodically
- Using correct sectioning – for example, when preparing hair for an asymmetrical on trend haircut, correct sectioning will ensure a balanced finished effect
- Compare hair preparation methods suitable to achieve the desired look, to include cutting hair wet/dry or both
 - Cutting hair dry
 - Easier to texturise and remove bulk from the hair especially abundant, curly or coarse hair types – this can also be achieved to finish the on trend haircut after it has been shampooed and styled straight
 - Advantages of cutting hair dry – quick, easier to see natural hair movement and fall, accurately assess actual hair length
 - Disadvantages of cutting hair dry – hair may not be clean, less accurate sections, less control, more static, harder to comb
 - Cutting hair wet
 - Hair wet with water spray – quicker for the client but hair may not be clean, may not be evenly wet
 - Pre-shampooed and conditioned hair – clean hair to cut, hair fully returns to alpha-keratin
 - Advantages of cutting hair wet – supports cleaner section making, hair easier to control, greater accuracy for on trend and precision cutting, able to see hair in natural state (curls, waves), guidelines more visible, greater choice of cutting tools (e.g. scissors, razor); able to complete and style the hair

- Disadvantages of cutting hair wet – hair growth patterns less obvious, takes longer to complete the appointment from start to finish
- Choose the most appropriate methods of cutting hair depending upon the hair type, classification and characteristics as identified during the consultation
 - Using the correct cutting method(s) for hair type and classification
 - Using the correct cutting method(s) to achieve the desired image, e.g. using both razor and scissor techniques on coarse thick hair
- Cutting methods and techniques
 - Scissor over comb
 - Hair supported by comb when cut with scissors. Produces a soft-layered effect. Often used for very short styles cut into nape/sides, shortens to less than finger depth, cut to head shape/size or when blending layers
 - Club cutting
 - Creates a blunt end to hair, used for precision cutting, retains hair bulk and weight, used for both curly and straight hair types
 - Freehand
 - Cutting hair with no tension without holding the hair with the hand, fingers or tools
 - Clipper over comb (if used)
 - Hair supported by comb when cut with clippers. Produces a soft-layered effect. Often used for very short styles cut into nape/sides, shortens the hair close to the scalp, cut to head shape/size or when blending layers
 - Precision cutting
 - Creating a straight, solid edge with dramatic angles, e.g. classic bob with no graduation
- Texturising effects may include:
 - Point cutting or chipping into the lengths of the hair to remove bulk. Can be used to remove bulk and increase volume in thicker hair. This technique is a harsher variant of the slithering technique and will lead to more noticeable results but should only be used sparingly. It can be used to create a long wispy effect in hair, to chip, take a section of hair and hold it up parallel to the scalp. Use scissors to chip little chunks away from the mid-lengths of the hair
 - Slicing and slithering to the mid-lengths and ends to create texture and movement. A texturising technique best used on thicker hair, it can thin out some of the excess bulk and add volume where it is needed. To use the slithering technique to thin out thicker hair, take sections of the hair and use scissors to slither it by gently sliding the blades out from the mid-lengths of the hair towards the ends. A light grip on the handles of the scissors is used to achieve this effect and with little pressure on the blades
 - Twist cutting, sections of hair are twisted tightly and cut with scissors to texturise the hair, creating evenly thinned hair
- Classic cutting styles modified and combined may include:
 - Fading (short graduation) – hair held at 45 degree angles. Produces longer internal length, shorter external length
 - Uniform layer – hair is held at 90 degrees. No weight line. Hair cut to any length, long, medium, short, above or below the shoulders angles
 - Long graduation – hair held at a range of over 90 degrees, depending on the degree of graduation required. Can produce short internal layers and longer external layers

- One length – hair held at 0 degree angle ideal for on trend haircuts, to the length of the hair for hair that is below the shoulders in length or fringe cutting
- Emerging cutting styles
 - Asymmetric cut, this can be subtle or dramatic depending on how short one area of the haircut is. Combine short graduation with either uniform layer (for the longer area) or long graduation
 - Disconnecting, part of the haircut is not connected, e.g. undercutting using clippers
- Haircut is personalised by
 - Working with natural fall of hair
 - Texturising

Communicate effectively whilst performing cutting services using on trend barbering techniques

Taught content to include

- 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 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) provided

Taught content to include

- Products to use – styling products or styling finishing sprays
- Home care maintenance, for example the daily routine could include styling using wax or gel
- Discuss client's needs, requirements and lifestyle to provide further advice and guidance on the use of home care products – for example, a client with a busy outdoor lifestyle may require advice and guidance on products that will maintain their look when exposed to extremes in temperatures
- Discussing 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
- Discussing limitations, for example a specific growth pattern such as a cowlick fringe – may inhibit a chosen haircut or may require the client to dry the hair in a specific way to achieve results
- Suggested interval between cuts, the client should be aware of the recommended time to return for maintenance of the style
- Other offers or promotions for example barbershop loyalty cards

LO2 Understand how health and safety policies and procedures affect cutting services when using on trend barbering techniques

The responsibilities for health and safety in own role

Taught content to include

- Relevant legislation specific to country of study for cutting, 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)
 - Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations
 - Consumer Rights Act
 - The Consumer Protection Act
 - The Trade Descriptions Act
 - Equality Act
 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)
 - Barbershop insurance requirements, employers liability, public liability, professional indemnity
- Responsibilities for health and safety to include:
 - The reasons why all staff working in the barbershop have a responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others
 - The barbershop safety regulations to ensure their actions do not put others at risk, which includes all staff, clients and visitors
- Additional factors will include:
 - The reasons why it is important to accurately describe the features and benefits of products and services
 - The reasons and importance for gaining client consent
 - The maintenance of the barbershop environment including:
 - The comfort of the barbershop
 - Cleanliness of the barbershop to prevent cross-infection via direct or indirect contact
 - Provisions and use of workplace equipment – using only products, tools and equipment that are fit for purpose
 - Reasons for personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g. using protective barbering capes/cutting collars for clients when completing on trend barbering techniques

- Making visual checks on all electrical equipment and reporting faults/isolating power, e.g. when using hand held hairdryer used to remove excess moisture or style the finished on trend cut
- Ensuring manufacturers' instructions are always followed when using products and equipment that are associated with the on trend barbering service
- Responsibilities of reporting certain work-related incidents or accidents, diseases and dangerous occurrences to a senior staff member
- Ensuring the public are protected from the manufacture of supplied unsafe goods or misleading price indications
- Prevent a false trade description of any goods that are supplied or offering 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 services
- Disposing of waste and hair cuttings correctly

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

Taught content to include

- The importance of ensuring that products that might be used for cutting services using on trend barbering techniques are stored, handled and used in accordance with barbershop policy, local bylaws and manufacturers' instructions
- The potential hazards and risks associated with not completing appropriate tests on the client and the hair, for example, undertaking an elasticity test – over processed/chemically damaged hair may require different tension when creating on trend barbering services to prevent overstretching the hair
- Hazards – anything that has the potential to cause harm, for example, hair cuttings on the floor
- Risks – a chance, high or low, that harm caused by the hazard may occur, for example, the potential for self, client or others to slip on the cuttings
- Working safely throughout the service, an example may include ensuring there is adequate room around the client and no obstruction to the safe use of scissors
- Risk of electric shock when using electrical equipment to enhance the service, to include potential hazards of trailing wires
- Ensuring use and maintenance of any equipment is monitored, for example, checking the temperature settings on electrical hand-held equipment to ensure the right temperature setting is selected for the hair type
- Ensuring the client is comfortable and free from harm throughout the service, for example, removing piercing jewellery that may obstruct the use of tools and equipment when creating on trend barbering services
- 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, including handling and storage of all products, tools and equipment
- The course of action to be taken when accidentally cutting own or client's skin

- Cut own skin – stop immediately, clean wound, apply pressure to stop bleeding and cover with a plaster
- Cut client's skin – stop immediately, provide sterile cloth to client to hold against the cut skin, provide plaster for client to apply. Barber to wash hands to remove blood from own skin, barber to wear gloves if applying plaster to client cut
- The importance of ensuring a thorough visual check of the hair and scalp is performed prior to the service to prevent cross-infection, for example, ensuring the scalp is not tender when combing hair for sectioning prior to cutting
- Fire – the barbershop's policy in the outcome of a fire and where the assembly point is
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), including handling and storage of products for example, keeping some products away from direct sunlight

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

Taught content to include

- Use of clean towels, barbering capes and protective garments for all clients
- The importance of providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for both client and Barber, e.g. prevention of cuttings irritating client's skin
- Use of clean and sterile tools equipment for all clients
- Sectioning hair appropriately for the cutting service, e.g. to avoid hair falling into client's eyes
- Organisation of working area, e.g. storing tools safely especially scissors and razors; positioning the client at correct height
- Avoid trailing wires and spillages from products on the floor, for example, if using a water spray ensure any spillage is wiped up immediately; if using a hairdryer ensure the wires do not cause a hazard
- Avoid hair cuttings on the floor
- The need to store sharp objects safely, e.g. return scissors to closed case after use
- The use of gloves when shaving clients to protect against cross-infection. Also used to ensure no blood to blood contact in the event of an accidental cut or hair pull

The importance of questioning clients prior to and during services

Taught content to include

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

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

Taught content to include

- Understanding what the client wants and their expectations of the chosen on trend cut and finished look
- Ensuring the amount of hair to be cut is agreed with the client
- Consulting with the client to ensure they understand the process
- Asking questions to provide the opportunity for the client to ask questions of their own
- Checking that the client is comfortable
- Gaining information on how they maintain their hair, lifestyle and commitment to the on trend look
- Ensuring the client's expectations are met
- The legal significance of client questioning and the recording of client's responses to questioning

The methods of sterilisation and disinfecting used in barbershops

Taught content to include

- Tools, equipment and work surfaces must be kept clean, well maintained and sterilised or disinfected
- Sterilisation and disinfecting will prevent cross-infection/contamination
 - 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. Also available in a spray form to avoid rusting for metal cutting tools and equipment.
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, barbering capes	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.

The safe working methods to operate the barber chair

Taught content to include

- The use of correct and safe controlling techniques whilst using the barber chair during a haircut
- The importance of ensuring there are no objects, cables or people obstructing the chair, foot pedal or footrest before operating
- The methods of operating or adapting the barber chair depending on the manufacturer's instructions, to include:
 - Adjusting the height
 - Chair height – can be raised or lowered to avoid the barber stretching or straining during bending whilst performing cutting services
 - Raising the chair – pump the foot pedal gently (following manufacturer's operating instructions)
 - Lowering the chair – gently press down and hold the foot pedal (following manufacturer's operating instructions)
 - When operating the foot pedal, care should be taken to avoid hitting the backrest with the knee
 - Rotating
 - Chair rotation – the chair can be rotated to allow access for clients to get in and out of the chair, and to help the barber achieve a better cutting posture
 - Before rotating the chair, ensure that the client's feet are not going to be pinched between the footrest and the foot pedal
 - To rotate the chair ensure that it has been unlocked (following manufacturer's operating instructions), then swivel the chair carefully with two hands
 - Locking
 - To unlock, gently press down on the foot pedal/lock pedal (following manufacturer's operating instructions)
 - To lock the chair in place, gently press upwards on the foot pedal/lock pedal (following manufacturer's operating instructions)
- The importance of the barber's chair being at its lowest position to allow the client to enter and exit the chair
- The safety advice to the client, for example, should be not to enter and exit the chair by stepping on the foot rest as this will cause the chair to tip over
- For comfort and stability while seated, the client should be advised to keep their feet on the footrest
- How to avoid injury – care should be taken when using the chair by avoiding careless behaviour, for example sitting on the armrest or unintentionally rotating the chair

The importance of preventing cross-infection and cross-infestation

Taught content to include

- How to avoid cross-contamination, cross-infection or infestation, e.g. the use of correct sterilising and disinfecting methods for all tools and equipment
- Ensuring the client's scalp and hair are checked prior to the on trend barbering service
- Avoidance of cross-contamination, e.g. using unclean tools or protective garments from one client could contaminate the next clients' skin, hair or scalp
- Ensuring the professional barbershop image is maintained, e.g. reputation and possible legal challenges

LO3 Understand the factors that may influence cutting services when using on trend barbering techniques

The importance of identifying factors that may limit or affect services

Taught content to include

- To avoid mistakes, examples may include:
 - Preventing damage to the hair and scalp
 - Preventing legal action
 - Informed consent
 - Avoiding cross-contamination

Factors that may influence the services provided

Taught content to include

- Hair classification

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

- The factors that must be taken into account when undertaking on trend barbering techniques to include:
 - Density – this is defined as the concentration of the number of hairs on the scalp and will affect the choice of tools, cutting method(s) and possible 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 and some styles may need adapting according to the required on trend cut
 - 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 when haircutting, are known as porous and will absorb water and products more easily and unevenly when applying finishing products after cutting the hair
 - 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 hair and no

damage to the cortex. If hair stretches and snaps or does not return to its original length this indicates internal damage to the cortex

- Growth patterns – this relates to the direction the hair grows from the scalp and may influence the desired finish. Selecting the correct cutting techniques may help overcome a difficult growth pattern to enhance the on trend haircut
- Head and face shape and size – this relates to the overall shape and size of the client's head and includes any specific features. When creatively cutting hair, it is important to ensure that the client has a style that suits their overall appearance
- Lifestyle – this is about the client's everyday activities and working patterns, e.g. it is important the client can manage the chosen haircut
- Hair length – this will affect the general condition of the hair, e.g. cutting the hair may improve the overall hair condition
- Baldness to include the following
 - Androgenic alopecia (male pattern baldness)
 - Cause: hereditary/stress, often starts with a receding hairline followed by general thinning. Barbering services can continue
 - Cicatricial alopecia
 - Cause: physical or chemical scar damage to the skin which stops the hair from growing. Barbering services can continue
 - Alopecia areata
 - Cause: unknown although it is thought to be linked to nervous disorder, identified by circular bald patches on the scalp which are not inflamed or itchy. Barbering services can continue after medical advice has been sought

State the average rate of hair growth

Taught content to include

- Hair growth cycle
 - Anagen – growing stage; active stage, most hair is in this stage at any one time
 - Catagen – changing stage, a small percentage of hair is in this stage at any one time
 - Telogen – resting stage, the hair is not growing and is separated from the hair bulb
 - Early anagen – new hair begins to form
- Average month growth
 - 1.25cm or 0.5 inch
- Influencing factors to hair growth
 - Health – poor general health will reduce the condition of the hair and slow the hair growth
 - Diet – poor diet will not produce the nutrients required for healthy hair growth
 - Stress – stress can cause hair loss or thinning either in patches (alopecia areata) or excessive hair loss (telogen effluvium)
 - Diseases – in cases where the body is fighting off infection less nutrients are sent to support hair growth, resulting in poor hair condition, hair loss or thinning
 - Medications – certain medications may cause hair loss or thinning

The ways of dealing with any influencing factors

Taught content to include

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

Contra-indications and how they affect the cutting service using on trend barbering techniques

Taught content to include

- Contra-indications to cutting services using on trend barbering techniques to include, bacterial, viral or fungal infections. Contagious conditions to include:
 - Bacterial infection examples:
 - 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:
 - 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:
 - 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:
 - Head lice – are tiny grey/brown insects. Head lice cling to hairs but stay close to the scalp which they feed off. Head lice lay eggs which hatch after 7 to 10 days. It takes about 7 to 10 days for a newly hatched louse to grow into an adult and start to lay eggs known as nits. Nits are the empty yellow-white eggshells which are left when the lice hatch. Nits look like dandruff but stick strongly to hair
 - Scabies – itchy skin condition causing a rash which may cause tiny blisters or sores where mites have burrowed into the skin
- Hair defects, contra-indication examples:
 - 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
- History of previous allergic reaction, e.g. especially with shampoo or finishing products used when creating cutting services using on trend barbering techniques
- Conditions which may be contra-indicated, prevent or restrict the cutting services using on trend barbering techniques
 - Scalp sensitivity – an inflamed, sore and red scalp may limit the service as the scalp may be too tender for sectioning or the tension required to create the haircut
 - Sebaceous cyst – lump on top or under scalp/head
 - Psoriasis – dry silvery scales of skin
 - Contact dermatitis – dry, red, sore, itchy and may be weeping
 - Recent scar/tissue injury, may be tender when using combs or when finishing the haircut
 - Hair loss, possible after hairpiece removal, medication, stress or trauma (alopecia), use tools and equipment carefully to avoid damage to hair or skin

- The course of action to be taken if contra-indications are suspected, to include:
 - Not to offer diagnosis
 - Which conditions need reporting and when
 - Who to report to and where to record the findings
 - Referral for medical attention or advice

Explain the effects of continual close cutting of hair on the skin

Taught content to include

- Locations of in-growing hair
- Visual effect/how to recognise
- Treatment of the effects of in-growing hair
- Complications associated with in-growing hairs
 - Scarring
 - Infection
 - Pigment discolouration

The known causes and typical patterns of male pattern baldness

Taught content to include

- Known causes:
 - Genetic, e.g. androgenetic alopecia is a common form of hair loss in both men and women. In men, this condition is also known as male-pattern baldness. Hair is lost in a well-defined pattern, beginning above both temples
 - Hereditary, i.e. a natural condition caused by some combination of genetics, hormone levels and the ageing process
- Typical male pattern baldness patterns:
 - Receding hair line around temples/front hairline
 - Thinning hair
 - Bald areas around the crown

LO4 Understand the tools, equipment, products and on trend barbering techniques used for cutting services

The importance of preparing the hair prior to cutting

Taught content to include

- The importance of preparing hair prior to cutting, to include:
 - Removing tangles/knots
 - Checking hair growth patterns/natural fall of the hair
 - Checking hair and scalp prior to shampooing if cutting hair wet to remove dirt/debris, product build-up
 - Checking hair and scalp if cutting hair dry
 - Checking for influencing factors
 - Checking for contra-indications/signs of infections or infestations
 - Checking for piercings that may inhibit the service
 - Removing styling products to allow for true visual inspection of hair growth patterns
- The importance of checking hair when wet/shampooed for:
 - Natural movement
 - Hair growth pattern/movement of hair
 - Male pattern baldness
 - Partings
 - Elasticity
- The importance of checking hair when dry for:
 - Hair growth pattern/movement, e.g. ensuring clippers are held against hair growth to enable all hair to be cut uniformly
 - Natural fall of the hair

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

Taught content to include

- Scissors
 - Used to remove length and bulk, creates blunt, textured and/or tapered end to the hair
- Razors
 - Used to remove bulk from coarse or thick hair or to add texture or taper the ends of the hair
- Thinning scissors
 - Thinning scissors can help to blend haircuts or reduce bulk from thicker coarse hair. The scissors possess a number of teeth that allow them to cut some but not all strands of hair and the effect is to thin out the hair
- Clippers
 - Used to remove bulk from coarse or thick hair or to add texture or taper the ends of the hair, can be used to start pattern work or sculpt partings into the hair
- Clipper attachments
 - Used to create different lengths in the beard hair
- Detailers
 - Used to add/complete sculpted parting lines or designs, prior to razoring the final line. Remove fine hair from the nape as part of a graduation/fade, or scalp area prior to foiling or shaving the scalp
- Foils
 - Used to remove all hair stubble from the scalp or nape area
- Cutting comb(s)
 - Used to detangle hair, support hair when cutting, create sections, control hair when cutting
- Equipment to include
 - Barbering cape – used to protect the client and their clothes from hair cuttings
 - Cutting collar/cape – used to protect neck area from hair clippings
 - Neck strip – soft paper secured around the neck to keep hair clippings from entering a client's clothes
 - Cotton wool pads – used to keep hair clippings from entering the eyes
 - Back mirror – used to show client the back of the head to confirm the look – may be used during consultation to discuss possible finished hair length or effect
 - Neck brush – soft brush that removes excess hair from client's neck, and shoulders
 - Water spray:
 - Use to keep hair damp during the haircut
 - Maintain by refreshing water
 - Detangling solution – used to prevent knotting during the haircut
 - Hairdryer – used to dry or remove excess moisture after cutting

The correct use and maintenance of cutting tools and equipment

Taught content to include

Tools to include:

- Scissors
 - Can be used on wet or dry hair
 - Held between third finger and thumb. When combing the hair, the thumb should be removed from the scissors. Only move the thumb when cutting hair
 - Maintain by removing loose hair, wipe clean, sterilise, store in appropriate pouch, sharpen if required, only use for cutting hair
 - Keep oiled
- Razors
 - When shaving, use on prepared skin
 - When cutting, use on wet hair
 - Held between thumb and first finger with the tang hooked by the fourth finger, ensure the skin is held taught when using the razor on the skin
 - Maintain by disposing of blade in sharps box or approved appropriate dispenser. Avoid touching the blade
 - Sterilise after every service, use new blades on each client
- Thinning scissors
 - Can be used on wet or dry hair
 - Held between third finger and thumb. When combing the hair, the thumb should be removed from the scissors. Only move the thumb when cutting hair
 - Maintain by removing loose hair, wipe clean, sterilise and store in appropriate pouch, only use for cutting hair
- Clippers
 - Can be used on wet or dry hair
 - Held between thumb and fingers, generally in the palm of the hand
 - Maintain by removing loose hair, wipe clean, sterilise, store in appropriate pouch, only use for cutting hair
 - Spray with proprietary sterilising/detergent sprays between clients
 - Keep oiled
- Clipper attachments
 - Maintain by removing loose hair, wipe clean, sterilise, store in appropriate pouch, only use for cutting hair
- Detailers
 - Can be used on dry hair
 - Held between thumb and fingers, generally in the palm of the hand.
 - Maintain by removing loose hair, wipe clean, sterilise, store in appropriate pouch, only use for cutting hair
 - Spray with proprietary sterilising/detergent sprays between clients
 - Keep oiled

- Foils
 - Can be used on dry hair
 - Held between thumb and fingers, generally in the palm of the hand
 - Maintain by removing loose hair, wipe clean, sterilise, store in appropriate pouch, only use for cutting hair
 - Spray with proprietary sterilising/detergent sprays between clients
- Cutting comb(s)
 - Can be used on wet or dry hair
 - Held between thumb and first finger
 - Maintain by cleaning combs of hair clippings, wash and dry or place in sterilising solution, store in clean receptacle/area

Equipment to include:

- Barbering cape
 - Used to protect the client and their clothes from hair cuttings
 - Maintain by washing and drying after every use
- Cutting collar
 - Used to protect neck area from hair clippings
 - Maintain by wiping clean, store at work station or clean trolley
- Neck strip
 - Soft paper secured around the neck to keep hair clippings from entering a client's clothes
 - Dispose of after use
- Cotton wool pads
 - Used to keep hair clippings from entering the eyes
 - Dispose after use
- Back mirror
 - Used to show client the back of the head to confirm the look – may be used during consultation to discuss possible finished hair length or effect
 - Maintain by cleaning for smear free reflection, store at workstation
- Neck brush
 - Soft brush that removes excess hair from client's neck and shoulders
 - Maintain by washing in warm soapy water, rinse and dry thoroughly
- Detangling solution
 - Used to prevent knotting during the haircut
 - Maintain by cleaning the bottle
- Hairdryer
 - Held by the handle and used following manufacturers' instructions
 - Maintain by cleaning filter on the back of the air intake regularly

The importance of applying correct techniques during services

Taught content to include

- Working with the natural fall/movement of the hair, including hair partings
- Weight distribution of the hair to ensure the expected shape can be achieved
- Adapting techniques where required to consider any specific hair growth patterns, e.g. cowlick, whorl
- Using the correct cutting method(s) for hair type and classification
- Using the correct cutting method(s) to achieve the desired style
- Using correct sectioning
- Holding the hair at the correct tension to create the style or blend hair
- Holding the comb at the correct angle to the head
- The reasons for creating and using guidelines and using correct angles when cutting
- How to create guidelines and personalise on trend haircut

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

Taught content to include

- To prevent hazards, e.g. when applying the product ensuring spillages are wiped up if dropped onto the floor
- To minimise risks, e.g. to avoid slips on spilt products
- The importance of ensuring there is adequate ventilation when using disinfecting sprays to minimise unnecessary inhalation of product
- To produce satisfactory results, e.g. using a moisturising tonic on fine hair, making it oily
- To avoid problems or mistakes, e.g. ensuring correct attachment is used to avoid cutting the hair too short
- Following and adhering to manufacturers' instructions when using products and equipment to cut facial hair
- To avoid legal action, e.g. in the case of misuse of clippers leading to cutting the client's skin

The importance of using products cost-effectively

Taught content to include

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

Describe the problems that may occur during services and ways in which they can be resolved

Taught content to include

Problem	Possible solution/resolution
Contra-indication found	Do not begin the service or, if started, stop service. Encourage client to rebook, provide appropriate advice for treatment or referral for the contra-indication.
Client changes mind about the amount of hair cut off or the shape of the beard	Prevent happening by effective communication, consultation and use of visual resources before the haircut begins. During the haircut, reassure client and confirm approval of cut hair length by explaining the haircut progression. Agree solution.
Cut own skin	Stop immediately and clean wound, apply pressure to stop bleeding, cover wound with plaster.
Cut client's skin	Stop immediately, provide sterile cloth to client to hold against the cut skin, provide plaster for client to apply. Barber to wash hands to remove blood from own skin. If applying plaster to the client's cut the Barber should wear gloves.
Sides uneven on finished beard shape	Check chair height and client's posture. Ensure client sits straight in seat, visually check the length of each side using the comb as guide and the mirror to correct the shape.
Hair will not lie correctly around a growth pattern	The hair in growth pattern may require extra length to weigh it down or need to be cut shorter to remove the problem.

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

Taught content to include

- To ensure the client feels valued and that the consultation was specifically tailored to their individual needs
- To help clients maintain and achieve the required result at home
- Guidance on when to return for a maintenance cut
- The reasons for using specific products at home, for example, to help the client recreate the style themselves
- Reputation and walking advertisement for the barbershop
- To provide advice and guidance on other products and services to enhance the style

Assessment requirements

Learners must complete all assessment requirements related to this unit:

1. Service portfolio
2. Synoptic practical assessment

1. Service portfolio

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

The performance of learning outcome 1 must be demonstrated as part of all technical observations and will be recorded on **at least 6 occasions**. The on trend barbering techniques should be conducted on a range of new and existing clients and include:

- Club cutting
- Freehand cutting
- Scissor over comb
- Precision cutting
- Texturising effects on both wet and dry hair

The learner is required to complete a style collection. This style collection must be presented in a hard copy format (not digital) and must include different types of on trend haircut finishes; i.e. modified classic cutting styles, emerging cutting styles personalised for the client to include: uniform layer; longer graduation, short graduation, skin fading, asymmetric and disconnecting styles. The 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

This unit forms part of the synoptic practical examination 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.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
V1.0	10/05/2022	First published	Product and Regulation Coordinator
v2.0	24/06/2026	Rebranding	Development Administrator