



Qualification Specification

iBT3D28 - VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 3 Diploma in Massage Therapies

603/4067/8

About VTCT Skills

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Qualification at a glance

Qualification title	VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 3 Diploma in Massage Therapies
Qualification number	603/4067/8
Product code	iBT3D28
First registration date	01/10/2019
Age range	16-18, 19+
Credit value	38
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	380
Guided Learning (GL) hours	330
Assessment	To be awarded this qualification, learners must successfully achieve the following assessments: • External practical examination • External theory examination • Portfolio of evidence containing - Treatment evidence - Assignments
Grading	Pass/Merit/Distinction
Entry requirements	It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that learners have the required knowledge, understanding and skills to enrol and successfully achieve this qualification.

About this qualification

Aims and objectives

The main aim of the VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 3 Diploma in Massage Therapies is to enable learners to gain the necessary practical and theoretical skills in order to provide massage therapies to the general public and to gain employment in the spa or beauty therapy industry. This qualification is suitable for learners aged 16 and over and is designed to provide occupational competence at level 3. It also provides a sound platform into further training at level 3 and 4.

Content

This qualification is for learners who want to work within the Spa or Beauty Therapy Industry. The qualification consists of 6 mandatory units with a total of 330 hours of Guided Learning (GL) to achieve the full qualification.

The main skills the Learner will perform are:

- Consultation techniques – to include treatment plan and contra-indications and contra-actions, identifying general body types, different types of body fat and common postural faults
- Massage techniques – to include the classical massage movements, use of different massage mediums, mechanical massage and pre-heat treatments and adapting the massage to suit the client's specific needs
- Massage using pre-blended aromatherapy oils – to include choosing the correct pre-blended aromatherapy oil to suit the client's specific treatment needs and skin type and adapting the massage to suit the client's treatment needs
- Stone therapy massage – to include the use of techniques and stones such as classical massage movements, trigger point work, semi-precious, hot and cold stones and adapting the treatment to suit the client's specific treatment needs
- Indian head massage – to include the classical massage techniques, contra-indication and contra-actions, home and aftercare, chakra's and adapting the massage to suit the client's treatment needs

The learner will also learn about related health and safety and client care and communication which is essential in order to work and be successful in the industry.

This qualification also provides:

- The related knowledge and understanding required to perform the massage treatment skills listed above in particular the anatomy and physiology of the body and common diseases and disorders that may affect when a client should or should not receive treatment
- Opportunities for learners to focus on the development of their wider skills in a massage therapies setting, such as communicating with clients, working with others and problem solving
- Opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills, techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in employment as a massage therapist

Opportunities for progression

Once learners have achieved the VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 3 Diploma in Massage Therapies they may progress on to other VTCT Skills or equivalent qualifications at level 3 and 4 for example:

- Level 3 Certificate in Spa Treatments

- Level 3 Diploma in Sports Massage
- Level 4 Diploma in Spa and Salon Management

Opportunities for employment

There are opportunities for spa and body therapists to find employment in a variety of areas:

- Beauty salons
- Hotels
- Health clubs
- Spas
- Own business
- Cruise liners

Relationship to National Occupational Standards

This qualification has mapped to National Occupational Standards where they exist and has ensured that best practice in the workplace has been reflected in the qualification. This qualification is linked to the relative job roles as well as ensuring that the qualification reflects the required level of knowledge and ability for the massage therapist at level 3.

Qualification structure

To be awarded the VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 3 Diploma in Massage Therapies, learners must achieve all mandatory units.

The minimum GLH required to achieve this qualification is 330

The minimum TQT required to achieve this qualification is 380

Table 1

Unit code	Mandatory units	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Unit reference number	Unit weighting for the overall qualification grade
iUCO79	Monitor and maintain health and safety practice in the salon	29	A/617/4369	10%
iUBT402	Client care and communication in beauty-related industries	28	Y/617/4346	0
iUBT320	Provide body massage	84	L/617/4294	25%
iUCT43	Provide massage using pre-blended aromatherapy oils	65	M/617/4367	20%
iUBT344	Apply stone therapy massage	75	F/617/4275	25%
iUBT322	Provide Indian head massage	49	H/617/4298	20%

Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Guided Learning Hours is 'the activity of a learner in being taught or instructed by – or otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training'. This includes 'the activity of being assessed if the assessment takes place under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training'.

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total Qualification Time is 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 the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of the qualification.

Assessment

All treatment evidence, internal assessments, and underpinning knowledge must be completed prior to the final practical examination.

The final external practical examination will be carried out by the external examiner at the end of the period of learning. The external examiner will also verify a sample of the treatment evidence and internal assessment.

Table 2

Unit code	Mandatory units	Assessment	Grading
iUCO79	Monitor and maintain health and safety practice in the salon	Portfolio of evidence – 3 performances	Pass/Refer
		MCQ	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
iUBT402	Client care and communication in beauty-related industries	Portfolio of evidence – Assignment	Pass/Refer
iUBT320	Provide body massage	Practical examination	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
		Portfolio of evidence – 4 treatments	Pass/Refer
		MCQ	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
iUCT43	Provide massage using pre-blended aromatherapy oils	Practical examination	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
		Portfolio of evidence – 4 treatments	Pass/Refer
		MCQ	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
iUBT344	Apply stone therapy massage	Practical examination	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
		Portfolio of evidence – 4 treatments	Pass/Refer

		MCQ	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
iUBT322	Provide Indian head massage	Practical examination	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%
		Portfolio of evidence – 4 treatments	Pass/Refer
		MCQ	Pass 60% - 74% Merit 75% - 89% Distinction 90% - 100%

Unit specifications and additional supporting material for this qualification can be found on the VTCT Skills website.

Grading of the qualification

Learners must achieve a Pass grade or higher in the requisite number of units as specified in the rules of combination, see Table 1 above. Only mandatory units which are graded Pass/Merit/Distinction will contribute to the overall grade.

Practical examinations and theory examinations will be graded Pass/Merit/Distinction.

Portfolio of evidence containing the following will be graded Pass/Fail:

- Treatment evidence
- Assignments

The overall qualification is graded Pass/Merit/Distinction.

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.

Theory examination

All theory tests must be conducted in a controlled environment and follow the procedures defined by VTCT Skills. The theory tests will be set and marked by VTCT Skills. The centre is responsible for ensuring the examination can operate seamlessly by organising the process as defined in the 'Instructions for Conducting Examinations' which can be found on the VTCT Skills website.

Practical examination

Once all aspects of the mandatory units have been completed, learners will be expected to complete an internal mock practical assessment. This will be undertaken by the internal assessor/lecturer using the internal assessment forms. These must be handed to the external examiner on the day of the final external practical examination.

All practical assessments must be conducted in a controlled environment defined by VTCT Skills. The practical examination will be conducted by an external examiner; however, the centre is responsible for ensuring the examination can operate seamlessly by organising the process as defined in the 'Instructions for Conducting Examinations' which can be found on the VTCT Skills website. The

marking criteria and marking scheme can be found under the documents tab within the qualification.

Portfolio of evidence

Learners are required to provide a portfolio of evidence containing treatments and/or case studies that they have performed on clients during their training under the supervision of the lecturer who will monitor the quality of the treatments in order to ensure that they meet the criteria.

- The criteria are detailed on the treatment evidence guidance forms
- The learner will need to complete a client consultation form as evidence that they performed the required number of treatments during their training (see Table 2) as they form part of the internal assessment for the qualification. They can be stored in the learner's portfolio

Learners are required to provide assignments under the supervision of the lecturer who will monitor the quality of the assignments in order to ensure that they meet the criteria.

- The criteria are detailed on the assignment guidance forms and form part of the internal assessment for the qualification

Quality assurance

Delivery of the qualification

A scheme of work must be approved by VTCT Skills for all units prior to the commencement of the course.

Lecturers should aim to deliver the theory and practical of each unit simultaneously, i.e., both theory and practical of each unit should be taught together to ensure the underpinning knowledge is being delivered at the same time as the practical skills. This will help to ensure that learners understand the structures they are working on as a result of combining delivery with the practical application of treatments.

Centre resources

The organisation delivering the qualification must provide a suitable environment for teaching the VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 3 Diploma in Massage Therapies as well as all equipment both fixed and free standing to complete all aspects of the qualification. Learners need to be made aware of the amount of consumables/towels they will be required to provide.

Achievement record

All units will require an Achievement Record to be completed by the lecturer for each learner. This achievement record will need to be kept by the centre and may be sampled by the external examiner or external quality assurer on their visit.

An Achievement Record for each unit can be downloaded from the VTCT Skills website.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v0.3	14/05/2019	Draft version published to inform centres prior to September launch.	Systems Integration Team
v1.0	13/09/2019	First published	Head of Qualifications and Processing
v2.0	03/12/2019	Added grade boundary review	Qualifications Administrator
v3.0	01/09/2020	Added COVID-19 Infection Prevention pre-requisite	Product and Regulation Manager
V4.0	01/08/2022	Removed COVID-19 Infection Prevention pre-requisite	Product and Regulation Coordinator
V5.0	01/01/2025	New branding	Qualifications Administrator
v6.0	28/08/2026	Rebranding	Development Administrator