Hairdressing Curriculum Map

Year 11



Rationale and Links to The National Curriculum

The VTCT Level 2 Technical Award in the Study of Hair and Beauty (CO2A5) is designed to provide learners with a broad and comprehensive understanding of the hair and beauty sector. It blends academic knowledge with practical insight, preparing students for further education or entry-level roles in the industry. This qualification is ideal for students who:

- Are interested in the creative, scientific, and business aspects of hair and beauty.
- Wish to explore career pathways in salons, spas, media, theatre, or entrepreneurship.
- Want to develop transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, and project planning.

Key Units:

UCO90 – Business and Entrepreneurship in the Hair and Beauty Sector- Covers business structures, marketing, planning, and the economic impact of the industry.

UCO91 – Anatomy, Physiology and Cosmetic Science- Explores the biology of hair, skin, and nails, product formulation, and ethical considerations.

UCO92 – Design in the Hair and Beauty Sector- Focuses on creativity, responding to briefs, and evaluating design work.

Assessment:

60% Synoptic project (internally assessed)

40% External exam (Units UCO90 and UCO91)

This course supports progression to Level 3 qualifications or apprenticeships and nurtures both academic and vocational excellence.

Links to the National Curriculum

The VTCT CO2A5 aligns with the National Curriculum in several ways:

- Science: Through the study of anatomy, physiology, and cosmetic science (UCO91), students apply biological and chemical principles in real-world contexts.
- Design and Technology: The design unit (UCO92) encourages creativity, innovation, and evaluation—core elements of the D&T curriculum.
- Business Studies: UCO90 introduces learners to entrepreneurship, marketing, and business planning, supporting the aims of enterprise education.
- Citizenship and PSHE: Ethical issues such as animal testing and sustainability are explored, promoting critical thinking and responsible citizenship.

	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3
Key Topics	Unit UCO92- Design in the Hair and Beauty sector • LO1 Understand design briefs in the hair and	Synoptic Assessment released at the start of December. This assignment is externally set, internally	Synoptic Assessment
	beauty sector	marked and externally moderated and worth 60% contribution to overall qualification grade.	

• LO2 Know how to plan and develop a design
brief project

• LO3 Know how to present and review a design brief project

This unit will cover the principles which underpin working with design briefs in a range of contexts related to the hair and beauty sector. Learners will explore different types of design briefs, their purpose and how to carry out research to inspire design ideas. Learners will also understand the principles of design and problem solving and the environmental, social and economic challenges when carrying out a design brief. Learners will know how to plan and develop a design brief project, how to analyse and interpret information and how to present design brief ideas. Additionally, learners will know how to present and communicate design brief ideas to a target audience and how to reflect on and review their design brief project

Learners must complete the synoptic assignment brief in approximately 20 hours. The non-exam assessment will assess the learner's knowledge and understanding of the topics from within the three mandatory units.

The assessment objectives AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 and AO5 will be targeted by this assessment component.

Substantive Knowledge (The knowledge the students will develop)

Throughout this topic students will develop a range of knowledge outcomes including;

Types of Design Briefs

- What design briefs are
- Different formats and contexts (e.g., clientled, theme-based, commercial)

Purpose of Design Briefs

- Why they are used in the hair and beauty sector
- How they guide creative and professional work

Principles of Design

- Elements such as line, shape, texture, colour, balance, contrast, harmony
- How these principles apply to hair and beauty design

Problem Solving in Design

This assignment is designed to assess how well students can synthesise and apply knowledge in a real-world context.

Research and Development

 How to conduct effective research to inspire and inform design ideas

Design Briefs in Hair and Beauty

- Understanding the purpose and structure of design briefs
- Knowing how to develop and respond to a brief in a professional context
- Awareness of audience needs and how to tailor design ideas accordingly

Environmental, Social, and Economic Considerations

 Knowledge of sustainability in product use and sourcing This assignment is designed to assess how well students can synthesise and apply knowledge in a real-world context.

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Environmental, Social, and Economic Considerations

 Knowledge of sustainability in product use and sourcing

- Identifying challenges
- Generating and refining ideas to meet a brief

Planning and Development

- Steps in planning a design project
- Time management and resource allocation

Research Techniques

- How to gather inspiration and information
- Use of mood boards, trend analysis, client profiles

Presentation and Communication

- Methods of presenting ideas (e.g., visual boards, verbal pitches)
- Tailoring communication to a target audience

Reflection and Review

- Evaluating the success of a project
- Identifying areas for improvement

Understanding social responsibility (e.g., inclusivity, cultural awareness)

Project Planning

- Steps involved in planning a design project from concept to completion
- Skills in time management, resource allocation, and organisation

Presentation and Communication

- How to present design ideas visually and verbally
- Use of appropriate formats and terminology to communicate with different audiences

Business and Entrepreneurship

 Basic understanding of business models, marketing, and entrepreneurship in the hair and beauty sector

Cosmetic Science and Anatomy

- Knowledge of cosmetic chemistry and the integumentary system
- Understanding how products interact with the skin and hair

Evaluation and Reflection

- Techniques for reviewing and evaluating the success of a design project
- Ability to reflect critically on personal performance and outcomes

Understanding social responsibility (e.g., inclusivity, cultural awareness)

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Disciplinary Knowledge(The skills an

(The skills and approaches that students will develop)

Within this topic students will develop the following disciplinary skills;

- Analytical thinking through interpreting design briefs and breaking down client needs and constraints.
- Creative processes by developing original ideas from research and refining designs.
- Critical Evaluation by using feedback to improve outcomes and reviewing own and other's work

Throughout the VTCT Synoptic Assessment students develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and resilience, which are essential for progression into further education or careers in the hair and beauty industry.

Analytical Thinking

- Interpreting and responding to a design brief
- Breaking down client needs and constraints
- Evaluating research findings to inform design decisions

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- Interpreting and responding to a design brief
- Breaking down client needs and constraints
- Evaluating research findings to inform design decisions

Creative Problem Solving

- Generating innovative ideas within the boundaries of a brief
- Adapting designs to meet environmental, social, and economic challenges
 Research

	 Communication skills by explaining design choices clearly and using appropriate terminology and formats Research skills, selecting relevant sources and synthesising information to inform design Project Management, organising tasks and timelines as well as monitoring progress and adapting plans. 	 Creative Problem Solving Generating innovative ideas within the boundaries of a brief Adapting designs to meet environmental, social, and economic challenges Research Conducting purposeful research using a range of sources Synthesising information to inspire and justify design choices Using evidence to support decisions and communicate rationale Project Management Planning and organising a design project from start to finish Managing time, resources, and workflow effectively Reflecting on progress and adapting plans as needed Application of Vocational Knowledge Integrating knowledge from business, anatomy, cosmetic science, and design Evaluation and Reflection Critically reviewing the success of a project Identifying strengths and areas for improvement Justifying design choices and responding to feedback Using reflective practice to inform future work 	 Conducting purposeful research using a range of sources Synthesising information to inspire and justify design choices Using evidence to support decisions and communicate rationale Project Management Planning and organising a design project from start to finish Managing time, resources, and workflow effectively Reflecting on progress and adapting plans as needed Application of Vocational Knowledge Integrating knowledge from business, anatomy, cosmetic science, and design Evaluation and Reflection Critically reviewing the success of a project Identifying strengths and areas for improvement Justifying design choices and responding to feedback Using reflective practice to inform future work
Assessment (The methods that teachers will use to assess the progress of all students)	November Mock Assessment- full past paper exam.	Students will begin working on their Synoptic Assessment which is worth 60% of their overall grade and is released at the start of December. This will be completed under supervised conditions following VTCTs NEA examination policy. The submission deadline for this work is the end of March.	Synoptic assessment Assessment aims: AO1 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding AO2 - Apply knowledge and understanding AO3 - Analyse and evaluate knowledge and understanding

		Students will be working towards the following Assessment aims: AO1 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding AO2 - Apply knowledge and understanding AO3 - Analyse and evaluate knowledge and understanding AO4 - Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques AO5 - Evaluate and draw conclusions to inform development	AO4 - Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques AO5 - Evaluate and draw conclusions to inform development
Reading, Writing and Vocabulary	 Reading skills: Skimming and scanning for relevant information Interpreting visual and written sources Understanding subject-specific terminology Making inferences and drawing conclusions from research Writing skills Students will be expected to plan and document design brief projects as well as, writing reflections and evaluations of their work. Communicate ideas clearly to a target audience, using persuasive and descriptive language Vocabulary Design Principles: Line, texture, contrast, harmony, balance, focal point Project Work: Brief, concept, development, iteration, presentation, evaluation Sustainability and Ethics: Eco-friendly, biodegradable, inclusive, ethical sourcing, cost-effective 	The synoptic assignment requires students to work independently over 20 hours in controlled conditions, applying their learning in a holistic and professional manner. Reading skills Students will interpret design briefs and understand client requirements Analyse research sources, including trend reports, product information, and visual materials Extract key information from written texts to inform design decisions Understand technical vocabulary related to anatomy, cosmetic science, and business principles. Writing Skills Students will document project planning and development stages Write evaluations and reflections on their design process and outcomes Communicate ideas clearly in written formats such as mood boards, concept statements, and presentations	 Reading skills Students will interpret design briefs and understand client requirements Analyse research sources, including trend reports, product information, and visual materials Extract key information from written texts to inform design decisions Understand technical vocabulary related to anatomy, cosmetic science, and business principles. Writing Skills Students will document project planning and development stages Write evaluations and reflections on their design process and outcomes Communicate ideas clearly in written formats such as mood boards, concept statements, and presentations Use structured writing to explain reasoning, justify choices, and respond to feedback. Literacy Skills

	Communication: Target audience, pitch, feedback, interpretation, visual language	 Use structured writing to explain reasoning, justify choices, and respond to feedback. Literacy Skills Students will use subject-specific terminology confidently (e.g., "contrast," "sustainability," "client profile," "entrepreneurship") Develop critical thinking through written analysis and reflection Tailor communication to different audiences (e.g., clients, assessors, peers) Apply literacy across disciplines, integrating knowledge from science, business, and design into their written work 	 Students will use subject-specific terminology confidently (e.g., "contrast," "sustainability," "client profile," "entrepreneurship") Develop critical thinking through written analysis and reflection Tailor communication to different audiences (e.g., clients, assessors, peers) Apply literacy across disciplines, integrating knowledge from science, business, and design into their written work
Numeracy	 Numeracy skills students will cover in this topic include: Budgeting and Costing Calculating costs of materials, tools, and services Comparing prices and evaluating costeffectiveness Data Interpretation Analysing client feedback or survey results Interpreting trend data or market research to inform design choices Time Management and Scheduling Creating timelines and schedules for project development Allocating time for research, design, presentation, and review phases Proportions and Scale Applying ratios and scale in visual design (e.g., layout planning, symmetry) Understanding balance and proportion in aesthetic design 	Numeracy skills are not taught in isolation but are integrated into the practical and creative tasks students complete during the synoptic assessment. Budgeting and Costing Calculating costs of materials, tools, and services Comparing prices and evaluating costeffectiveness Data Interpretation Analysing client feedback or survey results Interpreting trend data or market research to inform design choices Time Management and Scheduling Creating timelines and schedules for project development Allocating time for research, design, presentation, and review phases Proportions and Scale Applying ratios and scale in visual design (e.g., layout planning, symmetry) Understanding balance and proportion in aesthetic design	Numeracy skills are not taught in isolation but are integrated into the practical and creative tasks students complete during the synoptic assessment. Budgeting and Costing Calculating costs of materials, tools, and services Comparing prices and evaluating costeffectiveness Data Interpretation Analysing client feedback or survey results Interpreting trend data or market research to inform design choices Time Management and Scheduling Creating timelines and schedules for project development Allocating time for research, design, presentation, and review phases Proportions and Scale Applying ratios and scale in visual design (e.g., layout planning, symmetry) Understanding balance and proportion in aesthetic design

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	Half Term 4	Half Term 5	Half Termo
Key Topics	Synoptic assessment submission deadline	External Examination revision of the following Learning Outcomes: UCO90 – Business and Entrepreneurship in the Hair and Beauty Sector- Covers business structures, marketing, planning, and the economic impact of the industry. UCO91 – Anatomy, Physiology and Cosmetic Science- Explores the biology of hair, skin, and nails, product formulation, and ethical considerations.	

Carnforth High School

Substantive Knowledge	This assignment is designed to assess	
(The knowledge the	how well students can synthesise and	
students will develop)	apply knowledge in a real-world	
	context.	
	Research and Development	
	How to conduct effective research to	
	inspire and inform design ideas	
	Design Briefs in Hair and Beauty	
	Understanding the purpose and	
	structure of design briefs	
	Knowing how to develop and respond to	
	a brief in a professional context	
	Awareness of audience needs and how	
	to tailor design ideas accordingly	
	Environmental, Social, and Economic	
	Considerations	
	Knowledge of sustainability in product	
	use and sourcing	
	Understanding social responsibility (e.g.,	
	inclusivity, cultural awareness)	
	Project Planning	
	Steps involved in planning a design	
	project from concept to completion	
	Skills in time management, resource	
	allocation, and organisation	
	Presentation and Communication	
	How to present design ideas visually and	
	verbally	
	Use of appropriate formats and	
	terminology to communicate with	
	different audiences	
	Business and Entrepreneurship Design and Appetending of Investment and Inve	
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	 Understanding how products interact with the skin and hair Evaluation and Reflection Techniques for reviewing and evaluating the success of a design project Ability to reflect critically on personal performance and outcomes 	
Disciplinary Knowledge (The skills and approaches that students will develop)	 Analytical Thinking Interpreting and responding to a design brief Breaking down client needs and constraints Evaluating research findings to inform design decisions Creative Problem Solving 	

	 Generating innovative ideas within the boundaries of a brief Adapting designs to meet environmental, social, and economic challenges Research Conducting purposeful research using a range of sources Synthesising information to inspire and justify design choices Using evidence to support decisions and communicate rationale Project Management Planning and organising a design project from start to finish Managing time, resources, and workflow effectively Reflecting on progress and adapting plans as needed Application of Vocational Knowledge Integrating knowledge from business, anatomy, cosmetic science, and design Evaluation and Reflection Critically reviewing the success of a project Identifying strengths and areas for improvement Justifying design choices and responding to feedback 		
Assessment (The methods that teachers will use to assess the progress of all students)	Synoptic assessment Assessment aims: AO1 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding AO2 - Apply knowledge and understanding	Exam questions from past papers linked to all topics covered focusing on both recall and extended answering questions in preparation for the External Exam.	

	AO3 - Analyse and evaluate knowledge and understanding AO4 - Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques AO5 - Evaluate and draw conclusions to inform development Synoptic assessment submission deadline mid-March. This will be internally marked and moderated ready for external scrutiny. Upload deadline before Easter break.	
Reading, Writing and	Reading skills	
Vocabulary	 Students will interpret design briefs and understand client requirements Analyse research sources, including trend reports, product information, and visual materials Extract key information from written texts to inform design decisions Understand technical vocabulary related to anatomy, cosmetic science, and business principles. Writing Skills Students will document project planning and development stages Write evaluations and reflections on their design process and outcomes Communicate ideas clearly in written formats such as mood boards, concept statements, and presentations Use structured writing to explain reasoning, justify choices, and respond to feedback. Literacy Skills 	
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Personal Development	Alongside the VTCT CO2A5 Level 2 qualification, students will benefit from weekly access to a real-life salon environment. This hands-on
•	experience allows learners to: • Develop practical skills in a professional setting.

- Gain confidence in using industry-standard tools, products, and techniques.
- Apply theoretical knowledge to real client scenarios.
- Build essential workplace behaviours such as communication, time management, and customer service.
- Strengthen their readiness for further study in hairdressing or beauty therapy at college or through apprenticeships.

This immersive experience bridges the gap between classroom learning and industry expectations, ensuring students are well-prepared for the next stage of their vocational journey.