



**CIBTAC LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE IN NAIL
TECHNOLOGY**

CNC01

QAN – 610/3553/1

Qualification Specification

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1. CIBTAC

- 1.1. The Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (CIBTAC) was established in 1977 as the education arm of The British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (BABTAC). We are a not-for-profit organisation, continually reinvesting our income for the benefit of our accredited Centres and their Learners.

2. Introduction to CIBTAC qualifications

- 2.1. Each of our qualifications are developed through our close relationships with government agencies and employers from around the world, ensuring they are tailored to provide for the requirements of the international industry. Many of our Centres have been with CIBTAC for more than 30 years and their qualifying Graduates are sought after by first-rate employers because they are both educated to a high level and are salon ready.
- 2.2. Our qualifications are challenging, but highly attainable and designed to ensure an exceptional quality of Graduate is entering the sector whilst providing a flexible learning structure that allows each individual to design their portfolio of qualifications depending on their career aspirations. Qualifications are recognised by the England Government Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) which is often used to support local governments' qualifications throughout the world to enable international recognition for the Learner. If qualifications sit within a national qualification framework (such as the RQF) this enables greater recognition and comparability not only nationally, but also internationally where national qualification frameworks are referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
- 2.3. CIBTAC ensures its qualifications are fit for purpose by mapping them to National Occupational Standards where they exist. Qualifications are supported by professional associations and external end examinations are structured to be similar to an industry trade test and therefore prepare Learners for seeking employment.

3. Level of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology

- 3.1. The qualification is listed in the Ofqual register of qualifications. The CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology provides knowledge and practical competence in nail technology.

3.2. A Learner studying a Level 3 programme will be able to demonstrate the following:

Knowledge descriptor (the Learner)	Skills descriptor (Learner can)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks and address problems while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine • can interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas • is aware of the nature of the area of study or work • is aware of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify, select and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills, methods and procedures to address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine • use appropriate investigation to inform actions • review how effective methods and actions have been

4. Purpose of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology

The CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology is a practical and knowledge-based qualification. It is aimed at equipping therapists with skills required for work in salons, destination/day spas, cruise ships and in training roles.

The units have been identified by employers as the most appropriate for working as a Nail Technician, however, there are many CPD courses that can enhance the skills learnt and provide new techniques to ensure that the qualified therapist remains current and at the forefront of the industry.

5. Aims of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology

5.1 The CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology provides Learners with the knowledge and skills to carry out the recognised nail treatments in today's market.

5.2 The aim of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology is to:

- provide Learners with a challenging qualification that will enable them to gain the necessary knowledge and skills for work as a nail technician
- provide commercial skills in manicure, pedicure and nail enhancements
- encourage wider learning of new treatments on the market and the CPD opportunities available on completion of the course
- provide Learners with the opportunity to recognise the changing industry and be able to explore further avenues that will enhance skills in the future
- provide Learners with the tools and terminology required to work within the nail and beauty industry

- enable Learners to make informed and confident decisions relating to Clients' needs and requirements
- provide knowledge of the health and safety requirements surrounding the nail and beauty industry
- provide opportunities for Learners to develop the necessary skills and competencies to move on to further study or employment
- encourage a deeper understanding of 'effective communication' with Clients and team members

5.3 The content of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology is shown below

Practical elements of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology will enable Learners to:

- monitor health, safety and security practices within the salon/working environment
- follow emergency procedures
- communicate effectively with Clients
- provide Client care
- prepare and provide manicure and pedicure services
- prepare and provide nail enhancement services

Additional optional units will enable learners to:

- prepare and provide gel polish services
- prepare and enhance nails using electric files

Knowledge elements for the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology will enable Learners to:

- understand the requirements for monitoring health and safety within the salon
- understand the anatomy and physiology of the integumentary system, skeletal system, muscular system, cardiovascular system and lymphatic system in relation to nail treatments
- understand the requirements for providing manicure treatments, pedicure treatments, the application of nail enhancements and additional knowledge requirements for the selected optional units: provide gel polish services, prepare and enhance nails using electric files.

6. Progression

CIBTAC's Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology is a natural progression from Level 2 beauty therapy qualifications and is required by most spas and salons within the industry.

Achievement of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology will also provide progression to the Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy and the Level 4 Diploma in Salon Management offered by CIBTAC and other awarding organisations regulated by Ofqual.

7. Structure of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology

7.1. The CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology is made up from 2 mandatory A units and 1 mandatory B unit.

7.2. The Core (mandatory) units are as follows:

Qualification title	QAN number	Qualification code	Level	Pre-requisites	
CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology	610/3553/1		3	None required	
Mandatory A units	UAN number	Unit code		Credit value	GLH
Monitor and maintain health and safety in the salon	K/507/8923	T101	3	4	29
Provide manicure and pedicure services	Y/508/0098	P115	2	10	80
Minimum credit/hours				14	109
Minimum TQT				140	
Mandatory B units – one unit to be taken	UAN number	Unit code	Level	Credit value	GLH
Apply and maintain liquid & powder, gel and wrap nail enhancement systems	L/650/9319	P126	3	15	111
Apply and maintain liquid & powder, gel and structured nail enhancement systems	Y/650/9321	P127	3	15	111
Minimum credit/hours				15	111
Minimum TQT				150	290

7.3 The optional units are as follows

Optional unit/s may be taken if chosen (This is not compulsory)	UAN number	Unit code	Level	Credit value	GLH
Provide gel polish services	A/508/0112	P101	3	2	10
Prepare and enhance nails using electric files	D/650/9323	P128	3	3	29
Minimum credit/hours				0	0
Maximum credit/hours				5	39
Minimum TQT				0	

Ofqual defines GLH and TQT as:

Guided Learning (GL)

Guided Learning 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

8. Strategy for Delivery

- 8.1. The strategy for delivery of the units that make up the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology is based upon a combination of theory and practical sessions
- 8.2. The delivery of the programme may vary according to the Centre and may be delivered in any format that supports the Total Qualification Time (TQT) of 290 -340 hours dependent on the approach to the optional units. This may include training workshops or seminars, e-learning, distance learning or self-study. The CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology has a total minimum number of 220 guided learning hours (GLH). These hours must take place during simultaneous contact between Tutor and Learner
- 8.3. To develop commercial competence you must carry out treatments in Realistic Working Environments (RWE) involving paying Clients

9. Assessment Strategy

- 9.1 CIBTAC qualifications are assessed externally by practical examinations and Multiple Choice Theory papers.
- 9.2 The assessment methodology consists of 2 parts, namely:
Part 1 will consist of a Multiple Choice Theory examination paper. The features of the MCQ test are:
 - the formats of MCQs will be determined by the domain of learning (Knowledge, Understanding, and Application) on which the Learner is to be assessed
 - the MCQ paper will consist of 60 questions covering the mandatory units
 - where optional units are selected there will be an additional 20 questions per units
 - each MCQ paper will be composed of MCQs with 1 correct answer and 3 distractors
 - results of the MCQ assessment will be made available to Centres within 6 weeks following the exam date
 - Learners will be required to gain a minimum of 60% in each unit to passPart 2, the practical is a synoptic assessment carried out by a CIBTAC Examiner. The features of the practical examination are:
 - the mandatory units of this qualification have a practical exam time of 2 hours 30 minutes

- If choosing the optional unit provide gel polish services the exam duration will have a total running time of 2 hours 50 minutes
- If choosing the optional unit enhance nails using electric files the exam duration will have a total running time of 2 hours 45 minutes
- If choosing the optional unit enhance nails using electric files and the unit provide gel polish services the exam duration will have a total running time of 3 hours 10 minutes
- within the practical observation the Examiner will observe the consultation, Client care, health and safety and appearance and marks will be awarded for all these areas
- some areas require minimum marks to be achieved. Failure to achieve the minimum will result in failure of the unit and this may need to be retaken at another date
- the pass mark for the practical is 60% for each unit

9.3 The Learner will need to pass all MCQ papers and the practical examination to achieve the full CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology

10. Grading Scheme

To gain a qualification all units must be passed or achieved. Portfolio only units will be designated “achieved” or “not achieved”. Externally assessed units will be graded, the grades given will encompass both written and practical examinations and will be awarded as shown below. The overall grade for the qualification will be determined by the grades achieved for all units carrying an external assessment. The qualification grade is the lowest unit grade. The unit grade is the lowest of the theory and practical grade (where both forms of assessment take place). To receive a pass, all portfolio-only units must be achieved and all externally examined units must receive a pass score. To receive a merit all externally examined units must have received at least a merit score. To receive a distinction, all externally examined units must have received at least a distinction score.

Grade thresholds may be subject to change.

Grade	Mark range
Distinction	Marks of 85% and above
Merit	Marks of 75% - 84%
Pass	Marks of 60% - 74%
Fail	Marks of 59% and below

11. Initial assessment and Induction

Approved Centres will need to undertake an initial assessment of each Learner prior to the start of their programme to make sure that the level and type of qualification is appropriate. The initial

assessment should identify any specific needs that the Learner may have and the support and guidance they will require when working towards the achievement of their qualification. CIBTAC recommends that Learners undertake a relevant induction programme to familiarise them with the requirements of the qualification they will be undertaking, their responsibilities as Learners and the responsibilities of the approved Centre. A learning contract or professional development plan may be useful in this respect.

12. Entry Requirements

Learners should either be working in or aspiring to join the Beauty Industry if possible. They should ideally have:

- a good general education, including GCSE Mathematics and English, A* - C. This may also include achievement of Functional Skills or Essential Skills in Mathematics and English

13. Accreditation of Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)

13.1 Approved Centres should provide appropriate advice and guidance to Learners seeking exemptions as a result of prior learning

13.2 Each Learner is responsible for preparing each case of RPL

13.3 The Head of Training at the Centre is responsible for providing the outcome in writing to each Learner. Each claim should be verified by a CIBTAC Examiner or the CIBTAC Education Development Officer

14. Qualification time constraints

14.1 CIBTAC offers a lifetime registration fee. Learners are allocated a Unique CIBTAC ID and this will appear on all certificates

14.2 Learners have 3 years to complete a full qualification, subject to it being offered by an approved Centre; however it is normally anticipated that the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology will be completed within one academic year. Learners may complete the qualification more quickly subject to the assessments being made available by the approved Centre

14.3 Learners are permitted to sit 2 re-sits in unsuccessful units in the 2 years following the initial exam. If they are still unsuccessful after that, the Learner must re-register for these units and complete the course of study again, before sitting the complete examination. This applies to both practical and theory aspects. A unit certificate will be provided for all successfully completed units

15 Centre Requirements

15.1 Only approved Centres may offer CIBTAC qualifications. Centres must apply for approval to become a recognised approved Centre. Full details are available from CIBTAC. The approval process will determine whether the Centre:

- meets the approval criteria; and,
- has the expertise and resources to offer the levels of qualifications to be delivered

15.2 Approved Centres must meet a set of criteria defined by CIBTAC that meet the appropriate Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition (condition C). These include:

- recognised quality assurance procedures
- appropriately qualified tutors for the particular programmes
- a nominated Centre co-ordinator
- suitable teaching and learning facilities
- secure assessment facilities
- secure information management systems that meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act

16. Certification

A Qualification Certificate and Unit Certificate for the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology will be awarded to Learners who have successfully completed the core (mandatory) units from the qualification structure.

17. The CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology Syllabus

17.1 There are 3 key areas within the programme of learning within which the syllabus is contextualised specifically for the beauty industry, which are:

- health and safety
- manicure and pedicure
- apply and maintain nail enhancements

17.2 The full syllabus outlining learning outcomes and the indicative content of each unit can be found in a separate document CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology

18. Mapping to other Education Frameworks

The CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology is mapped against the England Government Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) to assist the Learner with the mobility of their achievements against these frameworks, as set out below.

Qualification Title	RQF	EQF	CQFW	SCQF
	8	8		
	7	7		
	6	6		
	5/4	5	5/4	8/7
CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology	3	4	3	6
	2	3	2	5
	1	2	1	4
	Entry Level	1		

19. CIBTAC policies

19.1 The following CIBTAC policies are available for approved Centres and Learners to refer to in the administration of the delivery of the CIBTAC Level 3 Certificate in Nail Technology

- Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedures
- Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Appeals Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Certification Policy
- RPL Policy

19.2 The application forms below will need to be completed before CIBTAC is able to service your request in respect of policies identified in 19.1

- Application form for Reasonable Adjustments
- Application form for Special Considerations