



ICSE 2027 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
ASSISTANT HAIR STYLIST

Maximum Marks: 100

Time allowed: Two hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

*Attempt **all** questions from **Section A** and **any four** questions from **Section B**.*

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets[].

Instruction for the Supervising Examiner

Kindly read aloud the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the Examination Hall.

SECTION A (40 Marks)

(Attempt **all** questions.)

Question 1

[20]

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

- (i) Which hair stylist in France invented the blow dryer?
- (a) Peter Smith
 - (b) Alexandre F. Godefroy
 - (c) Harry McVickar
 - (d) John Billey
- (ii) Why do we use a blow dryer on the hair?
- (a) For drying and styling the hair
 - (b) For hair cutting
 - (c) For shining hair
 - (d) For hair conditioning
- (iii) For maximum volume, the roller should be placed _____.
- (a) directly on its base
 - (b) halfway behind its base
 - (c) completely off its base
 - (d) halfway on its base
- (iv) What is the main purpose of shampooing the hair?
- (a) Colouring the hair
 - (b) Cleaning the scalp and hair
 - (c) Straightening the hair
 - (d) Curling the hair

- (v) Why is an Iron/Straightener usually used on the hair?
- (a) To dry the hair
 - (b) To give bounce to the hair
 - (c) To straighten the hair
 - (d) To give a crimped look to the hair
- (vi) What is the use of a tong rod/curling rod on hair?
- (a) To give curls and waves to the hair
 - (b) To straighten the hair
 - (c) To dry the hair
 - (d) To make the hair silky
- (vii) A crimper machine gives a _____ to the hair.
- (a) smooth look
 - (b) supple look
 - (c) straight look
 - (d) zig-zag look and volume
- (viii) A head massage is beneficial as it:
- (a) promotes blood circulation
 - (b) changes hair colour
 - (c) stops hair growth
 - (d) makes the hair curly
- (ix) A heat protectant is used on the hair to:
- (a) protect the hair from heat
 - (b) colour the hair
 - (c) brush the hair
 - (d) wet the hair

- (x) Which of the following is the zero degree hair cut?
- (a) Layer cut
 - (b) Graduation cut
 - (c) Multi-layer cut
 - (d) One length cut
- (xi) The first step before giving a haircut is:
- (a) Hair Colouring
 - (b) Client Consultation
 - (c) Facial Massage
 - (d) Waxing
- (xii) Which tools are used for giving a haircut?
- (a) Scissors, razor, trimmer
 - (b) Gel, mousse, cream
 - (c) Oil, serum
 - (d) Water, serum, cream
- (xiii) It is necessary to provide after-service advice to the customer.
- (a) True
 - (b) False
- (xiv) During a haircut, when the hair is elevated below 90 degrees, it results in _____.
- (a) increased shrinkage
 - (b) maintenance of existing weight
 - (c) building of weight
 - (d) removal of weight

- (xv) Identify the primary colours from the following:
- (a) Green, Black, Yellow
 - (b) Green, Red, Yellow
 - (c) White, Green, Yellow
 - (d) Blue, Yellow, Red
- (xvi) Which of the following are the secondary colours?
- (a) Green, Red, Yellow
 - (b) Green, Violet (Purple), Orange
 - (c) Violet (Purple), Yellow, Red
 - (d) Red, Green, Orange
- (xvii) A basic haircut should be done on:
- (a) Dirty hair
 - (b) Wet or damp hair
 - (c) Oily hair
 - (d) Dry hair
- (xviii) Salon tools should be:
- (a) shared without cleaning
 - (b) sterilised after every use
 - (c) kept within the reach of children
 - (d) washed once a week
- (xix) A client card does not contain information about:
- (a) name/phone number/address of the client
 - (b) allergies and diseases
 - (c) products and results of previous work
 - (d) names of family members

- (xx) Client feedback is important to
- (a) increase waiting time
 - (b) improve quality of services
 - (c) reduce hygiene
 - (d) avoid clients

Question 2

- (i) What is the function of a *blow dryer*? [2]
- (ii) Write *any two* causes of hair damage. [2]
- (iii) Name the different types of *hair textures*. [2]
- (iv) Mention the different categories of *hair colouring* based on their durability. [2]
- (v) What is the use of *developers* in hair colouring? [2]

Question 3

- (i) Name *any two* tools that are used to design hair. [2]
- (ii) Name *any two* types of combs available for hair. [2]
- (iii) State *any two* benefits of a head massage. [2]
- (iv) Name *any two* tools used for giving a haircut. [2]
- (v) What do you mean by the term *Self-management*? [2]

SECTION B (60 Marks)

(Answer **any four** questions from this **Section**.)

Question 4

- (i) Describe the techniques of *client consultation* in detail. [5]
- (ii) Explain the term *Verbal Communication*. [5]
- (iii) State the advantages of maintaining client satisfaction. [5]

Question 5

- (i) Describe the International Colour Chart. [5]
- (ii) List *any five* electrical safety practices that should be followed at the salon. [5]
- (iii) What advice would you give to the customer after setting the hair using a blow dryer? [5]

Question 6

- (i) Explain the importance of doing a *patch test* before hair colouring. [5]
- (ii) Explain the importance of *computer maintenance*. [5]
- (iii) What is the difference between *hair styling gel* and *mousse*. [5]

Question 7

- (i) Describe the *ethics* of a salon. [5]
- (ii) What are *highlights* and *lowlights* in hair colouring? [5]
- (iii) Explain the term *Sustainable development*. [5]

Question 8

- (i) Name and describe *any two* haircut techniques in detail. [5]
- (ii) Explain the elements involved in *Communication cycle*. [5]
- (iii) Identify the type of hair styles shown in the pictures given below. [5]
Explain *any one* in detail.



Question 9

- (i) Explain the steps in the process of blow drying the hair. [5]
- (ii) Explain *any two* salon hygiene practices to be followed during hair services. [5]
- (iii) Examine *any two* causes of dandruff. [5]

ICSE 2027 SPECIMEN

DRAFT MARKING SCHEME – ASSISTANT HAIR STYLIST

SECTION A (40 Marks)

Question 1		[20]
(i)	(b) Alexandre F. Godefroy	
(ii)	(a) For drying and styling the hair	
(iii)	(a) directly on its base	
(iv)	(b) Cleaning the scalp and hair	
(v)	(c) To straighten the hair	
(vi)	(a) To give curls and waves to the hair	
(vii)	(d) zig-zag look and volume	
(viii)	(a) promotes blood circulation	
(ix)	(a) protect the hair from heat	
(x)	(d) One length cut	
(xi)	(b) Client Consultation	
(xii)	(a) Scissors, razor, trimmer	
(xiii)	(a) True	
(xiv)	(c) building of weight	
(xv)	(d) Blue, Yellow, Red	
(xvi)	(b) Green, Violet (Purple), Orange	
(xvii)	(b) Wet or damp hair	
(xviii)	(b) Sterilised after every use	
(xix)	(d) names of family members	
(xx)	(b) improve quality of services	

Question 2		
(i)	A blow dryer, also known as a hair dryer, is an electrical device used to dry and style hair. It uses an electric fan to blow air across a heating coil and as the air passes through the dryer it heats up. It contains cold air also and when the warm air reaches wet hair, it helps evaporate the water. Hair dryers are used with a variety of brushes to achieve different hair styles.	[2]
(ii)	Causes of hair damage: - Excessive use of heat styling tools (hair dryer, straightener, curling iron). - Frequent chemical treatments such as colouring, bleaching, rebonding or perming. - Overexposure to sunlight (UV rays) - Pollution and dust - Poor nutrition or an unhealthy diet - Improper hair care (not oiling, not conditioning, harsh shampoos) - Excessive shampooing or over washing - Rough brushing or combing, especially on wet hair - Using poor-quality or harsh hair products - Lack of moisture, leading to dryness and split ends (Any two)	[2]
(iii)	There are four main types of hair texture: 1 – straight hair 2 – wavy hair 3 – curly hair 4 – tightly curled, kinky hair	[2]
(iv)	There are four categories of hair colouring based on durability: 1 – temporary 2 – semi-permanent 3 – demi-permanent 4 – permanent	[2]
(v)	Hair developer is mixed with colour tube or dye to lighten or colour the hair. It's creamy in texture and contains Hydrogen Peroxide as a component. It is very important to choose the right amount or volume of the hair developer.	[2]

Question 3		
(i)	The different tools used to design hair include: 1. Hair irons 2. Hair dryers 3. Hair brushes 4. Hair clippers 5. Hair rollers 6. Tong rods <i>(Any two points)</i>	[2]
(ii)	The different types of combs include: 1. Fine-Tooth Comb 2. Wide-Tooth Comb 3. Tail Comb 4. Pintail Comb 5. Detangling comb 6. Barber Comb 7. Cutting comb <i>(Any two)</i>	[2]
(iii)	Benefits of a head massage: • Improves blood circulation to the scalp, promoting healthy hair growth. • Relieves stress and relaxes the mind and body. • Nourishes the hair roots. • Reduces scalp dryness. • Strengthens hair follicles. • Improves scalp health. <i>(Any two)</i>	[2]
(iv)	Tools for giving a haircut: 1. Hair cutting scissors (shears) 2. Comb Other acceptable tools: • Razor • Hair clips/sectioning clips • Spray bottle • Electric clippers • Thinning scissors <i>(Any two)</i>	[2]

(v)	Self-management refers to the ability of an individual to manage their emotions, thoughts, behaviour, time, and activities effectively to achieve personal and professional goals.	[2]
SECTION B (60 Marks)		
Question 4		
(i)	Techniques of client consultation: Always be gentle and polite: Sometimes a client's hair may not be in a condition to achieve the desired hair goal. In such cases, communication should remain professional, respectful, and considerate. Understand the client's needs: It is important to understand clients' needs and ensure clients clearly understand the recommendations and information being communicated to them. Conduct a consultation for every client: Consultation is just as important for regular clients as it is for new clients, as even regular clients may wish to change their hairstyle or may be experiencing a hair-related concern. Help clients feel confident and comfortable and ask for reference images: Clients should be made to feel confident and comfortable during the consultation and encouraged to provide reference images. If no images are available, clients may be encouraged to search for examples that best represent their desired result. Perform hair tests: After understanding the client's expectations, all necessary tests, including patch tests, should be carried out before proceeding with the service. Ensure the client understands the entire process: Clients should be informed about and understand every step of the colour service required to achieve the desired result. Understand the client's hair care routine: Before beginning a colour service, the client's daily hair care routine should be assessed, including washing frequency, products used, treatments, styling products, and the regular use of heat styling tools such as straighteners and hair dryers. <i>(Any five points)</i>	[5]
(ii)	Verbal communication is perhaps the most common and understood mode of communication, and it is certainly a powerful tool in your communication toolbox. To put simply, verbal communication is the sharing of information between two individuals using words.	[5]

(iii)	Advantages of Maintaining Client Satisfaction: 1. Builds customer loyalty: Satisfied clients trust the salon and prefer to return for future beauty services. 2. Increases repeat business: Happy clients visit the salon regularly, which helps maintain a steady flow of customers. 3. Creates a good reputation: Satisfied clients share their positive experiences with others, improving the salon's image. 4. Attracts new clients: Positive word-of-mouth and recommendations encourage new customers to visit the salon. 5. Increases sales and profits: More satisfied and loyal clients lead to higher service bookings and better income for the salon.	[5]
Question 5		
(i)	The International Colour Chart is also known as ICC theory. It is a numerical system used worldwide to classify hair colour. It means that each hair colour has a definition that is recognised around the globe, and can be used by manufacturers on hair colour charts and tubes. Each hair colour is given a number, which tells us two things: • The depth of the colour – also known as the level or base. • If there are any tones in the colour and what they are.	[5]
(ii)	Electrical Safety Practices at the Salon: 1. Inspect electrical equipment regularly: Check dryers, straighteners and other appliances for damaged wires or faulty plugs before use. 2. Keep electrical appliances away from water: Never use electrical equipment with wet hands or near water to prevent electric shocks. 3. Switch off and unplug equipment after use: Always turn off appliances and unplug them when they are not in use to avoid accidents and save electricity. 4. Do not overload electrical sockets: Avoid connecting too many appliances to one socket, as it may cause overheating or fire. 5. Use properly maintained and safe equipment: Ensure all electrical tools are serviced regularly and repaired immediately if they become faulty.	[5]
(iii)	Advice to the customer after setting the hair with blow dryer: 1. Avoid moisture and humidity. 2. Tie in a top knot for bed. 3. Avoid direct front air on your hair. 4. Wash hair after 1-3 days. 5. Use the correct settings on your hairdryer	[5]

Question 6		
(i)	Importance of doing a Patch test before hair colouring: 1. Detects allergic reactions: A patch test helps identify whether the client is allergic to the hair colour product before it is applied. 2. Prevents skin irritation: It reduces the risk of redness, itching, burning, rashes or swelling during the hair colouring process. 3. Ensures client safety: The test protects the client from severe allergic reactions and makes the procedure safe. 4. Helps select a suitable product: If a reaction occurs, the beauty therapist can choose a different hair colour that is suitable for the client. 5. Builds client confidence: Performing a patch test assures the client that proper safety precautions are being followed, increasing trust in the service.	[5]
(ii)	Computer maintenance is very important for keeping your computer running smoothly. A computer which is left untreated can accumulate dust and debris, which may result on slow performance. Additionally, your computer may get infected with virus or malware if your antivirus is not updated.	[5]
(iii)	Hair styling gel - is used to hold your hairstyle in place. Mousse, is also known as styling foam. Differences between hair styling gel and mousse: • Hair mousse is a hairstyling product that provides hair with extra volume, hold, and shine while hair gel is a hairstyling product that provides hair with a strong hold. • Hair mousse comes in a foam form while hair gel comes in a solid, sticky form. • Hair mousse produces a hold that is soft yet firm while hair gel produces a hold that is stiff. • Hair mousse is suitable for both men and women with long or short hair while hair gel is more suitable for short hair.	[5]
Question 7		
(i)	Ethics of a salon: 1. Confidentiality of client information: This covers protecting clients' personal details, treatment plans, photos, financial information etc. Staff should never discuss or reveal confidential client information. 2. Honesty and integrity: All staff communication and operations at the salon should demonstrate transparency, trustworthiness, and principled decision-making. Deception of any kind is prohibited. 3. Quality of services: Standards for services ensure all clients receive skilled, attentive treatment from polite professionals who listen to their needs and follow safety practices. Services should meet industry benchmarks.	[5]

	4. Be respectful in the treatment of clients and colleagues: The code should mandate courtesy, fairness, and professionalism in all staff interactions with coworkers and clients. Discrimination or harassment will not be tolerated. 5. Adherence to laws and regulations: Staff must understand and comply fully with all relevant legal requirements in your jurisdiction related to licences, health codes, employment laws, taxes, etc. 6. Usage of salon property and resources: Employees should use the salon's spaces, tools, products, and other assets properly. 7. Conflicts of interest: The code makes clear that staff must not engage in any internal relationships or external activities that create biased decision making or split loyalties that undermine ethical judgement. 8. Professional appearance and conduct: Standards for appropriate work attire, grooming, and hygiene while on the job. Staff represent your salon's brand. (Any five)	
(ii)	Highlights are sections of hair that are lighter than your natural hair colour. Highlighting the hair means to lift the natural base using lightener or hair colour. When you lift or highlight the hair you are going to the lighter side. Lowlights are sections that are darker than your natural hair colour. They add dimension with strands of darker colour. These strands should be at least a shade or two darker than your base colour, contrasting against the rest of your hair.	[5]
(iii)	Sustainable development means using resources wisely without damaging the environment and keeping in mind the need of future generations. This can be achieved by making the right balance between using the resources to meet our present needs and conserving them for future.	[5]
Question 8		
(i)	The different haircut techniques are: Scissor And Clip Over Comb: This hair cutting technique uses the comb as a guide to cut areas where the hair is too short for a finger guide. Normally used around the ears or nape region. Club Cutting: Referred to as 'blunt' cutting, the section of hair to be cut is held out from the head and cut off at the tips. Thinning: Hair is thinned out with scissors or a razor to increase volume at the root or soften a new hairstyle. Freehand: For this hair cutting technique, the stylist uses the scissors to cut the hair without holding it – either in the other hand or through the use of any other tool to keep the hair in place. Here, cutting is generally done with the scissors pointed down at an angle, though it can be cut upward too. Graduating: This hair cutting technique involves using the length of the outside line as a guide, where the hair is held away from the head, cutting away the bulk from the outside line.	[5]

	6. Texturizing: This hair cutting technique comprises cutting the hair in different lengths to achieve varied styles. Long hair can be made to look less uniform, short hair can be texturized to create a spiked look. 7. Point Cutting: This technique adds texture and movement to the ends. 8. Soft Notching: Open and close scissors slightly working towards the scalp. Pull hair back to create a bob shape. Ensure that sections of hair are not too big. <i>(Any two techniques in detail)</i>	
(ii)	The communication cycle consists of the following elements: 1. Sender – The person who initiates the communication and conveys the message. 2. Ideas – The thoughts, information, feelings, or opinions that the sender wishes to communicate. 3. Encoding – The process of converting ideas into words, symbols, gestures, or signs that can be understood by others. 4. Communication Channel – The medium through which the message is transmitted, such as oral communication, written communication, telephone, email, etc. 5. Receiver – The person or group for whom the message is intended. 6. Decoding – The process of interpreting and understanding the message by the receiver. 7. Feedback – The response given by the receiver, indicating whether the message has been understood correctly. These elements work together to ensure effective communication between the sender and the receiver.	[5]
(iii)	(a) Dutch braid: stands out from the head instead of lying flat. Take 3 strands of hair. Cross sections under the middle, adding hair from the sides each time. (b) French braid: lies flat against the head. Take 3 strands. Cross sections over the middle, adding hair from the sides each time. (c) Fishtail braid: it is an intricate herringbone pattern. Take 2 sections of hair. Take thin parts from the outside of each section and cross to the inside of the opposite section. <i>(Explain any one with all the steps)</i>	[5]

Question 9		
(i)	Steps for blow drying hair: 1. Start with clean, conditioned hair. 2. Apply a heat protectant. 3. Detangle your hair. 4. Split the hair into sections. 5. Start blow-drying. 6. Finish with a blast of cool air. 7. Style as desired. <i>(Any five points)</i>	[5]
(ii)	Salon Hygiene Practices to be Followed During Hair Services 1. Maintain clean and sanitised tools and equipment: All combs, brushes, scissors, towels and other tools should be cleaned and disinfected before and after every client to prevent the spread of infections. 2. Maintain personal hygiene and use clean protective items: The beauty therapist should wash hands before and after the service, wear clean clothing, and use fresh towels and a clean cape for every client to ensure a hygienic and safe salon environment.	[5]
(iii)	Two Causes of Dandruff 1. Poor scalp hygiene, leading to the accumulation of dirt, oil and dead skin cells. 2. Dry scalp, which causes the skin to flake. Other acceptable causes include: • Fungal infection (Malassezia) • Excess oil (seborrhoeic scalp) • Improper hair care • Stress • Poor diet	[5]