

National Competitions



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Beauty Therapist Technical Handbook 2026

Table of Contents

WorldSkills UK	2
Sector Overview	2
Career Pathway	2
Competition Cycle	3
Competition Overview	4
Entry Criteria	7
Competition Specific Rules	8
Pre-Competition Activity	9
Digital Badges	9
Entry Stage	10
National Qualifier	10
National Final	10
Judges Top Tips	11

WorldSkills UK

WorldSkills UK is an independent charity and a partnership between employers, education and governments. Together, they are raising standards in apprenticeships and technical education to enable more young people get the best start in work and life. They are leading the charge to ensure that all young people have equal access to high quality apprenticeships and technical education, by:

- inspiring young people through their careers advice resources, to choose excellence through apprenticeships and technical education as a prestigious career route on their path to reaching their potential, whatever their background.
- developing excellence in young people by testing and assessing their skills and knowledge against their peers through their national and international competitions programmes, improving their confidence and potential.
- innovating to mainstream global excellence to help improve the standard of teaching, training and assessment through international benchmarking to help young people, employers and the UK economy succeed.

They are also part of WorldSkills, a global movement supported by over 80 member countries, which celebrates young people achieving world-class standards in the biennial 'skills Olympics'.

[This link](#) can be used to access more information about WorldSkills UK and the work it undertakes:

Sector Overview

A **beauty therapist** is skilled in the most popular salon treatments offered including waxing, manicure/pedicure, nail art, eye treatments, facials and makeup.

The competition focuses on the role and tasks of a beauty therapist. This includes carrying out a range of therapy services which reflect both current and traditional beauty therapy treatments including facial treatments, make-up, manicure, pedicure, nail art, lash and brow treatments, health and safety and customer service.

Career Pathway

Beauty, Nails & Spa Career Path:

https://www.vtct.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2019/09/A4_VTCT-Beauty.pdf

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/jobprofiles/beauty-therapist>

How to Become a Beauty Therapist (Career Path) (careeraddict.com)

How To Become A Beauty Therapist - Hair & Beauty Academy (lbta.co.uk)

Beauty therapist | My World of Work

Jobs in Beauty:

<https://jobsinbeauty.co.uk/blog/post/list-beauty>

Work in Health spas all over the world

Starting your own business

Senior beauty therapist.

Salon trainer.

Product distributor and trainer

Media/theatre make-up artist.

Fashion make-up artist.

Cruise ship beauty/spa therapist.

Salon receptionist.

Senior spa therapist

Competition Cycle

Date	Stage
Feb - March	Registration
April	Entry
June	National Qualifier
July	Announcement of Finalist
October	Bootcamp
November	National Finals

Competition Overview

About the Competition

This competition assesses the skills and abilities of competitors entering the field of Beauty Therapist

This competition consists of :

- An entry stage, a remote assessment in which you must complete work in your own time and submit this for judging
- A qualifying heat, which will be face to face
- You must attend and complete a series of tasks on a specific day, or a set of task that you will be sent and must be completed within a given timescale;
- A UK national final, taking place in November as part of WorldSkills National Finals.

Core competencies:

Competitors taking part in this competition should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

Professional demeanor

Safe working practices

Professional attitude

Effective interaction with the client

High level of skill and dexterity

Management of time allocation

Ergonomic working methods

Stay focused throughout the competition

Be able to perform under pressure

Qualification

This competition is mapped out to the following qualification:

England, Wales, Northern Ireland:

VTCT

Level 2 NVQ Diploma Beauty Therapy General

Level 2 Extended Diploma in Beauty Therapy (Technical Certificate)

Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Therapy (Technical Certificate)

Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Therapy Studies

Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Specialist Techniques

Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Services

City & Guilds

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Beauty Therapy

Cidesco

Level 2 Beauty Therapy Diploma

Scotland

SVQ 2 Beauty Therapy at SCQF Level 5

Assessment Criteria

For this competition the breakdown will help in how you can go from being competent in the skill to excellent and

what the judges will be looking for.

The table shows some examples:

Core Competence	Competent	Excellence
Professional demeanour	The competitor set their work area up independently and demonstrated satisfactory personal presentation.	The competitor set their work area up independently and demonstrated immaculate personal presentation
Safe working practices	Throughout the treatment the competitor maintained a clean, tidy work area. The competitor complied with health and safety guidelines and product instructions.	The competitor demonstrated the ability to modify their techniques during the treatment to meet the client's needs whilst always working in a safe manner.
Professional attitude	The competitor displayed a satisfactory professional attitude throughout the competition.	The competitor demonstrated self-confidence, effective interpersonal and communication skills throughout all observed interactions.
Effective interaction with the client	The competitor demonstrated confident communication methods.	The competitor used a communication strategy that was courteous, considerate and attuned to the client's responses, establishing a positive relationship with the client and excelling in customer service.
High level of skill and dexterity	The competitor carried out a complete treatment without support using suitable methods and techniques for the client.	The competitor used techniques that were individually tailored to meet customer needs and requirements.
Management of time allocation	The competitor was aware of how to manage time during the competition.	The competitor confidently demonstrated effective time management and optimal

		organisational skills throughout the treatment.
Ergonomic working methods	Ergonomic considerations were evidence at times throughout the competition.	Ergonomic adjustments were considered throughout the competition
Stay focused throughout the competition.	The competitor demonstrated some focus during the competition.	The competitor demonstrated optimum focus throughout the competition.
Be able to perform under pressure.	The competitor displayed some use of techniques to remain calm under pressure.	The competitor displayed excellent use of techniques to remain calm under pressure.

Entry Criteria

There is no limit to the number of entries per organisation but organisations are strongly encouraged to use the pre-competition activity to introduce their competitors to (and prepare them for) competition work and to select their best representatives.

This is an individual competition.

Entries will be accepted from competitors who are enrolled in a programme of study working towards Beauty Therapy Level 2 in the last 12 months

Competition Specific Rules

Competitors must complete the registration in full in order to participate.

A completed registration is an indication that you have agreed to the following:

- a) WorldSkills UK Competition Rules
- b) WorldSkills UK Terms and Conditions
- c) Where relevant the specific competition rules

Please ensure that you are familiar with this documents ahead of any competition activity: [Competition- Rules-2021 v3.pdf](#)

Conduct for competitors during live competitions:

1. Competitors must set up and participate in the competition on their own. *At no point should accompanying tutors,*

colleagues or others be in the competition area before or during the competition. Models will enter the room, ready for treatment, at the start time of the competition. Competitors must not use tutors from their institution as model for their competition. This includes tutors who do not currently teach the competitor but have done in the past. Competitors are advised to use family/friends as their model'

2. *Where there are a number of competitors from a different campus attached to the same organisation, the competitor's work stations will be placed around the competition area at the discretion of the judges.#*
3. Competitors must not bring any ornaments to decorate their work area e.g. flowers, vases etc.
4. Competitors must ensure that they keep to timings set by judges at the beginning of the competition, extra time will not be allocated to those who are not ready for each task.
5. Competitors should be dressed in beauty therapy attire and present themselves in a manner which would be acceptable within commercial enterprises. No jewellery or piercings are to be worn.
6. Competitors must cover all logos and other items that identify their colleges or other organisations of origin.
7. Competitors who arrive late will not receive additional time.
8. Competitors will start and finish work as instructed by the judges.
9. During the competition, competitors should not disturb other students/teams or speak to member of the public
10. Any competitor who wishes to leave the area during the competition must seek the permission of the judges.
11. If there is a power stoppage, breakdown of machinery or accident, the competitors must act according to the instructions of the judges.
12. Competitors who break or damage their own equipment during the competition will not receive additional time.
13. Competitors will be required to bring a model on the day. The models must not be contra-indicated to any of the treatments, they must also have previous experience of all tasks and have completed a thorough consultation prior to the competition to ensure they are suitable to have the treatments. It is the responsibility of the competitors / college leads to ensure the model is safe to be treated.
14. Models will be checked prior to the competitions; any found to be unsuitable will incur penalties for the competitor. Models must not aid the competitor in any way as this may affect the competitor's marks.
15. Competitors are responsible for supplying all products and equipment, including towels. Hosts will however provide a couch, magnification lamp, stool and trolley. Only trolleys or your own storage boxes, under the couch, should be used for products and equipment. Any items placed on sinks, shelves and cupboards in the work area will be asked to be moved. Towel cabi's and other electrical equipment are not permitted.
16. Where a competitor is observed working in an unsafe manner, she/he will be stopped and not permitted to continue unless willing to follow the judges' directions.
17. For tasks that contain cuticle work, nail polish or gel polish, cuticle oil is not permitted
18. All electrical equipment must be PAT tested and labelled before using at the competition and all the supporting equipment must be fit for purpose.

Pre-Competition Activity

Before registering to enter students and apprentices to take part in a WorldSkills UK Competition, it can be helpful to enable them to practice, test and challenge their technical and mental skills by getting involved [in the pre-competition activity](https://www.worldskillsuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Beauty-therapist-pre-competition-activity.pdf) <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Beauty-therapist-pre-competition-activity.pdf>, available on the bottom of the webpage. As well, the following activities could be used to support prospective competitors to get a feel for what will be expected of them in a WorldSkills UK Competition, whilst still in an environment with which they are familiar:

- on and off the job training and work experience
- WorldSkills UK or other externally run competitions
- internal competitions e.g. internal to an employer, specially designed competitions – using WSUK competition briefs
- local competitions e.g. in colleges and training provider.

Digital Badges



As recognition of the participation and achievement of learners who take part in the competition you will be awarded a Digital Badge from WorldSkills UK. This credential has been awarded to those who have participated in our competition- based training programme. In taking part in this programme there has been a commitment to developing technical, employability and personal skills to a high standard using benchmarked assessments, leading to higher skills development. At each stage of the competition activity there has been personal and professional growth as well as developing skills, knowledge and behaviours in vocational and technical education.

The digital badges are sent via Credly to your email and can be shared on social media platforms and in your email signature. For a short outline of the value of Digital Badges, look at our short video at <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/digital-credentials/> (45 secs).

Entry Stage

Entry stage - (photographic entry: normally of 2 tasks. Photographs should not be digitally edited or enhanced and should be competitor's own work, ensure the number of photographs and looks are included as stated in the brief. These should be completed under competition conditions in order to best prepared for further stages). Successful candidates will be invited to compete at the national qualifiers around the country.

National Qualifier

UK Qualifiers- these take place around the country. (In each qualifier, two/three tasks are performed by competitors in a specific order, under strict timed conditions). The top 8 performers in the UK will be selected from the National Qualifiers will be selected to compete at the National Final.

National Final

UK National Final (3 tasks performed over 1 full day, under strict timed conditions). Each stage is differentiated in order for the competitors' skills to develop and accelerate. A surprise task will be added, where the competitors will find out this task on the day of the competition.

Judges Top Tips

- Prior preparation prevents poor performance.
- Ensure you have read the brief and understand the brief.
- Contact lead judge prior to competition with any questions.
- It is vital that you arrive to your competition fully prepared and in good time for your briefing with the head floor judge.
- Points will NEVER be deducted for asking questions.
- Research competitions.
- Look at previous winners' work.
- Practise practise practise.
- Remember your tutor is there to fully support you in the journey, take on their advice and support.
- Listen to feedback from your tutor and work from the feedback.
- Use a mag lamp to check areas once finished.
- Work from feedback from judges in the entry stage to prepare for the next stage of competition.



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