

Exploring Careers Through **Technical** Routes

Hairdressing



The Industry

The hair industry is dynamic, creative, glamorous and fast paced with many exciting opportunities. Hairdressers use a range of cutting and styling methods to enhance the image, appearance and confidence of their clients.

A hairdresser may work in a salon catering for women and/or men or work in a specialist salon e.g. African-Caribbean. African-Caribbean salons use techniques such as pressing, braiding, plaiting and attaching hair extensions.

A trainee hairdresser will meet and greet customers, take coats, wash towels, replenish stock items, wash hair and generally keep the salon clean and tidy.

Many salons require six days a week working and later opening hours to accommodate business customers. The busiest day tends to be a Saturday so there could also be weekend work.

National Association of Screen Makeup artists and hairdressers <http://www.nasmah.co.uk>
Hair and Beauty Industry Authority <https://www.habia.org>
National Hairdressing Federation <https://www.nhf.info/home/>

Skills and Requirements

A passion for working with hair and be dedicated to the profession is essential. You also need:

- A keen sense of style and fashion and keeping up to date with styles and trends
- Creativity to design and interpret hairstyles
- Excellent social, customer service, communication and diplomacy skills together with a good sense of humour
- Knowledge of hairstyles, hair types and colouring with the ability to visualise change
- Enjoy being sociable and work as part of a team
- Enjoy meeting new people and having a conversation
- Enjoy working under pressure as clients may not always have a lot of time or like what you do
- Stamina as you will be on your feet all day
- Understand relevant Health and Safety laws and procedures
- Appropriate personal presentation including clothing, hair, nails and personal hygiene
- Hard working with a willingness to work flexible hours/days
- Knowledge of data protection of client records

There are over 31,000 salons in the UK employing around 180,000 people. A further 100,000 hairdressers are in training. Demand for entrants with the right skills and work attitude remains constant.

Source: <http://www.inpuyouth.co.uk/jobguides/job-hairdresser.html>

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Working and Learning in Hairdressing



Job Roles & Progression

To be successful it is important to continually develop your skills. Even once you're a fully qualified you need to refresh your skills and learn new techniques. Volunteer, work part time or do work experience in a salon that offers a training programme.

Study Programme

Levels 2 and 3
Hairdressing or Barbering



Further Study

FdA
Hairdressing Management
Specialist Hair and Media Make-up
HND Hair, Beauty and Make-up Management
Level 4 Hairdressing Techniques
BA (Hons) Specialist Hair and Media Make-up



Apprenticeships

Intermediate and Advanced
Hairdressing or Barbering



Career roles

Senior stylist or salon manager
Trainer or assessor
Specialise e.g. hair stylist, colour technician or trichologist
Own your own salon (*hairdressing and barbering businesses are the most popular independent start up business*) or become self employed (*44% of people working in hairdressing and barbering are self-employed*)
Work in film or television

Calculation including problem solving

Tasks

1. Estimate the total number of foils needing to be cut for highlighting a particular client's hair.
2. Research alternative suppliers of a hair shampoo to find the most cost effective one.
3. Calculate percentage price reductions for each hair stylist to boost business during a quiet week.
4. Mix hair dyes for a customer in the correct proportions based on the stylist's instructions.
5. Cut a client's hair into a bob, estimating and choosing the correct angle that the scissors make.

Links to GCSE Maths

1. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, multiplication, division; approximation - rounding numbers, estimating calculations)
2. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, multiplication)
3. **Number** (whole numbers - subtraction)
Ratio, proportion and rates of change (decreasing an amount by a percentage)
4. **Ratio, proportion and rates of change** (direct and inverse proportion - calculating amounts using proportions)
Geometry and measure (units of measure)
5. **Geometry and measure** (angles)

Communication, all forms

Tasks

1. Conduct a customer consultation to carry out a safe colour treatment.
2. Create a salon service menu showing customers the salon opening times, services, stylists and prices.
3. Handle a disgruntled client who has waited 45 minutes because the stylist is running late with her appointments.
4. Write a report for the salon manager on customer feedback over the past month.
5. Talk to a client and explain the benefits of the shampoo you are using to wash their hair.

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening)
Writing (writing non-fiction – a form; organising information)
2. **Writing** (writing non-fiction – a leaflet; literary techniques – persuasive devices)
Spelling, punctuation and grammar
3. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose; personal presence- eye contact; voice)
4. **Writing** (writing non-fiction – a report; planning - a structure; vocabulary - use precise verbs)
5. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose, discussion skills, persuasive language)