

Session	Topic	Learning Objective(s)	Lesson Activities	Resources
Week 1, Session 1 (75 minutes)	Introduction to short graduation cutting and professional standards	Identify the purpose of short graduation cutting within Level 2 hairdressing; explain the difference between graduation and layering; describe the importance of accuracy, client satisfaction, and professional presentation.	10 mins: tutor-led introduction to the unit, expectations, and assessment approach. 15 mins: guided discussion on where short graduation is used and why technical precision matters. 20 mins: teacher explanation using visual examples of 0°, 45°, 90° and 180° cutting angles, with emphasis on how short graduation sits at approximately 45°. 20 mins: paired task to compare graduation and layering using a simple sorting activity. 10 mins: individual knowledge-check quiz. Interventions: re-teach key terms verbally and visually for learners needing additional support. Assessment: verbal questioning, quiz responses, learner participation.	Whiteboard, projector, angle diagrams, comparison handout, quiz sheet, pens, glossary sheet.
Week 1, Session 2 (75 minutes)	Client consultation, contraindications and preparation checklist	Carry out a basic consultation for a short graduation service; identify contraindications and scalp conditions that may prevent or modify cutting; outline the correct preparation steps before cutting begins.	15 mins: tutor demonstration of a consultation dialogue, including length, style, lifestyle, maintenance, and suitability questions. 15 mins: whole-class review of contraindications such as open cuts, contagious scalp conditions, irritation, surgery, and client refusal. 20 mins: paired role-play, with one learner as client and one as stylist, using consultation prompts. 15 mins: tutor-led review of the preparation checklist: cleansing, towel-drying, detangling, sectioning, tension, and tool readiness. 10 mins: learners complete a consultation pro-forma and identify which actions would be safe or unsafe in given scenarios. Assessment: observation of role-play, completed pro-forma, oral questioning.	Consultation record forms, contra-indication cards, checklist handout, projector, pens, mirror, cape, gown.
Week 1, Session 3 (75 minutes)	Safety, sterilisation and learner working practices	Explain why tool hygiene and personal protective measures are essential; demonstrate safe handling of scissors, combs and clips; follow salon health and safety expectations during haircutting practice.	10 mins: starter recap of consultation and contraindications. 20 mins: tutor demonstration of cleaning, disinfecting and safe storage of tools, plus hand hygiene and PPE use. 20 mins: learners practise setting up a clean workstation, checking tools, arranging cape and towel, and using correct sanitising routines. 15 mins: scenario discussion on what could go wrong if sterilisation	Scissors, combs, clips, disinfectant, wipes, hand sanitiser, gloves, apron, cape, workstation set-up guide.

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			is poor. 10 mins: learners complete a short safety reflection and self-assessment checklist. Assessment: practical observation, safety checklist, reflection sheet.	
Week 2, Session 4 (75 minutes)	Head shape, sectioning patterns and body position	Describe how head shape influences short graduation; create clean sectioning patterns for a short graduation cut; position the body correctly to support symmetry and control.	15 mins: tutor explanation of head shape, occipital bone, and why graduation should echo the head. 20 mins: demonstration of centre parting, ear-to-ear parting, clipping away the top section, and identifying the back and side areas. 20 mins: guided learner practice on mannequin heads, focusing on section size, balance and cleanliness. 10 mins: body positioning drill, where learners move around the head without moving the client. 10 mins: quick peer review using a sectioning accuracy checklist. Assessment: tutor observation, peer feedback, checklist completion.	Mannequin heads, sectioning clips, tail combs, mirrors, clips, whiteboard diagrams, sectioning checklist.
Week 2, Session 5 (75 minutes)	Angles, elevation and establishing the first guide	Apply the correct elevation for a short graduation cut; establish a precise stationary guide in the nape; explain how angle changes affect weight and shape.	10 mins: recap of previous learning on sectioning and safety. 20 mins: teacher demonstration of the initial central guide at the nape, using minimal tension and approximately 45° elevation. 15 mins: learners watch and annotate the process step by step. 25 mins: supervised practical practice on mannequin heads, with tutor support to correct elevation, finger angle and comb position. 5 mins: stop-and-check plenary on common errors, such as over-elevation or uneven tension. Assessment: live practical assessment of first guide, questioning, tutor notes.	Mannequin heads, sectioning clips, scissors, combs, spray bottles, visual angle chart, step-by-step guide sheet.
Week 2, Session 6 (75 minutes)	Building the back guideline and working through the nape	Continue a short graduation cut using parallel sections; over-direct sections back to the stationary guide with control; maintain even tension, even moisture and a consistent cutting line.	10 mins: recap and teacher modelling of the back section sequence. 25 mins: guided practice on mannequin heads, taking vertical sections on either side of the central guide. 20 mins: learners complete the back section in stages, with tutor correction as required. 10 mins: pause for cross-checking discussion and identification of visible errors. 10	Mannequin heads, scissors, combs, clips, water spray bottles, handout on guide-building, mirror, cross-check prompt sheet.

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			mins: learner self-review against success criteria. Assessment: practical observation, learner self-evaluation, cross-check evidence.	
Week 3, Session 7 (75 minutes)	Side sections, symmetry and cross-checking	Extend the short graduation shape into the side sections; maintain symmetry left to right; cross-check accurately and identify shadows, corners or steps for refinement.	10 mins: teacher recap of back guideline and symmetry principles. 20 mins: demonstration of side section cutting and how to mirror body position on both sides. 25 mins: supervised practical work on sides, using the back as a reference point. 10 mins: guided cross-checking exercise using horizontal and vertical checks depending on section direction. 10 mins: targeted feedback and correction. Assessment: observation of symmetry, completed cross-check, verbal questions.	Mannequin heads, scissors, combs, clips, spray bottles, mirror, symmetry checklist, diagram of cross-check directions.
Week 3, Session 8 (75 minutes)	Working with different hair textures and tension control	Adapt section size, tool choice and tension control for different hair types; explain how straight, wavy, curly, thick and fine hair affect the result of a short graduation cut.	15 mins: teacher input on texture, density and how hair behaves when damp. 20 mins: group discussion of texture-based case studies. 20 mins: practical comparison task using sample wigs or images to decide which technique adjustments are needed. 15 mins: learners practise controlling tension and section size on mannequins with different hair textures, or simulated texture settings. 5 mins: exit ticket with one adjustment per hair type. Assessment: case study answers, practical control of tension, exit ticket.	Texture case study cards, mannequin heads or texture samples, wide-tooth and fine-tooth combs, scissors, spray bottles, worksheet, exit ticket slips.
Week 3, Session 9 (75 minutes)	Personalisation techniques and refining the shape	Use point cutting, scissor-over-comb, clipper-over-comb and freehand detailing appropriately; refine the haircut without losing structure; maintain professional control and finish.	15 mins: tutor demonstration of each refinement technique and when to use it. 20 mins: learners practise each finishing method on prepared sections or training heads. 20 mins: focused refinement of the short graduation outline. 10 mins: peer review of finish quality, balance and shape. 10 mins: tutor feedback linked to professional standards. Assessment: practical observation, peer review sheet, finished section quality.	Training heads, scissors, clippers, combs, neck brush, mirror, finishing technique handout, peer review sheet.