NPTC Level 3 Diploma for Professional Dog Stylists

Practical Exam Marking Criteria

Grade Definitions for the Practical Exam

Distinction

A distinction candidate excels in all areas including:

- Choice of excellent example of breed
- Exemplary advanced preparation
- Trimmed to perfection following NPTC guidelines
- Professional handling

Credit

A credit candidate is proficient in most or all areas including:

- Confident handling
- Attention to detail
- Clean lines
- Confident use of equipment

Pass

A pass candidate has competently covered the NPTC guidelines including:

- A neat and tidy finish
- An industry standard (value for money)
- Insignificant faults

Fail

A failed examination shows a candidate that is not yet competence in one or more areas who may be advised to undergo further training or support.

Particular problems may include:

- Inappropriate quality or choice of dog
- Poor preparation
- Trim that is inappropriate to breed guidelines
- Knott or mattes that cannot be lightly combed through by the examiner

Critical Faults

These are indicated by an asterisks (*) on the marking criteria and Candidate Assessment Report Form (CARF). The critical faults are below:

- Length and quality of coat (clean and knot free)
- Dog with suitable health
- Dog with suitable temperament
- Dangerous handling of the dog
- Dangerous use of equipment
- The trim not completed in the time allowed

The Marking Criteria

Presentation of the dog
- Dog with suitable health/ temperament*
1. The dog had medical problems or was injured
2. The dog had a health or temperament problem that would have impeded the groomer or other people from completing the task
3. The dog was typical of the breed with minor health or temperament problems
4. The dog was typical of the breed in good health with a good temperament
5. The dog was typical of the breed in excellent health with excellent temperament

- Length and quality of coat* - clean and knot free
1. The dog had a knotted or matted coat which was too short or too dirty to complete the trim
2. The dogs coat was either knotted, matted, too dirty or too short
3. The coat was just long enough to achieve the trim, clean with no knots or mattes
4. The coat was adequately long enough for trimming and its condition was clean with no knots or mattes
5. The dog had a plentiful, clean coat which was well prepared

- Clean ears, nails appropriate length
1. The ears were very dirty and the nails were untrimmed
2. The ears were very dirty and the nails required more trimming
3. The ears were fairly clean with minor amounts of dirt and the nails were trimmed
4. The ears were clean with some minor blemishes and the nails were trimmed neatly
5. The ears were spotlessly clean and the nails were as short as would allow

Clipper work
- Clear pads and hygiene areas
1. The pads and hygiene area had not been attended to
2. Either the pads or hygiene area had not been attended to
3. The pads and hygiene areas were basically prepared
4. Either the pads or hygiene area was basically prepared but the other was well prepared
5. The pads and hygiene areas were well prepared, both neat and tidy without flaw

- Correct and clean clipping lines
1. The clipping lines were not clear and not correct in reference to the guidelines
2. Either the clipping lines were not clear or the clipping lines were not correct in reference to the guidelines
3. The clipping lines were generally clear without major imperfections
4. The clipping lines were fairly well defined and clear with no imperfections
5. The clipping lines were immaculate ,clean and clear

- No tufts and clipper marks
1. There were tufts and clipper marks visible
2. Either there were tufts or there were clipper marks visible
3. The clipping was generally clear with only minor imperfections
4. The clipping was fairly clear with no imperfections
5. The clipping was extremely clear, clean and neat with no imperfections

- Suitable blade and method employed
1. An unsuitable blade and method was used
2. Either an unsuitable blade or method was used
3. The blade used was correct and the method was safe
4. The blade used was correct and appropriate for the individual dog and trim. The method was safe and efficient.
5. A range of suitable blades were used and understanding of the chosen blade demonstrated and confident methods were employed

Scissor work
- Correct technique
1. An unsafe technique was used and the finish was unacceptable
2. Either an unsafe technique was used or the finish was unacceptable
3. The scissor technique used was correct and safe to achieve a basic finish but the was scope for improvement
4. The technique used was correct and safe and the finish was adequate with a few minor flaws
5. A range of techniques were used safely and correctly to achieve an excellent finish

Thinning and blending
- Correct technique
1. An unsafe technique was used and the finish was unacceptable
2. Either and unsafe technique was used or the finish was unacceptable
3. The scissor technique was correct and safe to achieve a basic finish but there was scope for improvement
4. The technique used was correct and safe and the finish was adequate with a few minor flaws
5. A range of techniques were used safely and correctly to achieve an excellent finish

Handling and approach
- The dog *
1. The handing of the dog was unsuitable and unsafe
2. The approach to the dog was either unsuitable or unsafe
3. The handling of the dog was suitable and safe
4. The handling of the dog was suitable, safe and appropriate to the individual temperament of the dog
5. The handling of the dog was suitable, confident and safe and the approach to the dog was sensitive to the temperament of the dog

Handling and approach
- The equipment *
1. The equipment used was unsuitable and unsafe handling was demonstrated
2. Either the equipment used was unsuitable or unsafe handling was demonstrated
3. The correct equipment was used safely and adequately
4. The correct equipment was used safely and confidently
5. The correct equipment was used safely and confidently and achieved excellent results

Head
- Ears trimmed as appropriate to the breed
1. The ears were trimmed incorrectly and the finish was unacceptable
2. The ears were trimmed correctly but the finish to the ears was unacceptable for the breed
3. The ears were trimmed correctly and appropriate to the breed and the finish to the ears was acceptable but had scope for improvement
4. The ears were trimmed well and appropriately to the breed
5. The ears were correctly and accurately trimmed enhancing the breed shape/ style

- Head trimmed as appropriate to breed
1. The head shape was unacceptable for the breed and did not follow the guidelines
2. The head shape did not follow the guidelines but resembled the breed
3. The head were trimmed correctly and appropriate to the breed and the finish to the ears was acceptable but had scope for improvement
4. The head was trimmed well and appropriate to the breed
5. The head was correctly and accurately trimmed enhancing the breed shape/ style

- Neat tidy finish
1. The finish was untidy and uneven
2. The finish was uneven
3. The finish was an acceptable finish with some minor imperfections
4. The finish was clean with no imperfections
5. The finish was clean, tidy and even and it enhanced the breed shape

The Body (chest, back and skirt)
- Correct shape
1. The shape was incorrect with too much hair trimmed off
2. The shape was incorrect with too much hair left on
3. The shape was appropriate with minor imperfections
4. The shape was appropriate with no minor imperfections
5. The shape was correct and enhanced the breed shape

- Neat and tidy
1. The body was untidy and unfinished
2. The body was untidy
3. The body was neat and tidy with only minor imperfections
4. The body was neat and tidy with no minor imperfections
5. The body was neat and tidy and enhanced the breed shape

Tail
- Neat and tidy under tail area
1. The under tail area was untidy with many unnecessary long hairs
2. The under tail area was untidy with unnecessary hairs
3. The under tail area was neat and tidy with only minor imperfections
4. The under tail area was neat and tidy with no minor imperfections
5. The under tail area was immaculately finished, neat, tidy and enhanced the breed trim

- Neat and tidy finish appropriate to breed
1. The tail area was untidy with no finish
2. The tail was untidy
3. The tail area was neat and tidy with only minor imperfections
4. The tail area was neat and tidy with no minor imperfections
5. The tail area was immaculately finished, neat, tidy and enhanced the breed trim

Legs and feet
- Foreleg shape
1. The shape of the foreleg was incorrect with too much hair trimmed off
2. The shape of the foreleg was incorrect with too much hair left on
3. The shape of the foreleg was acceptable but had scope for improvement
4. The shape of the foreleg was appropriate and correct for the breed
5. The shape of the foreleg was excellent enhancing the breed trim

- Hind leg shape
1. The shape of the hind leg was incorrect with too much hair trimmed off
2. The shape of the hind leg is incorrect with too much hair left on
3. The shape of the hind leg was acceptable but had scope for improvement
4. The shape of the hind leg was appropriate and correct for the breed
5. The shape of the hind leg was excellent enhancing the breed trim

- Shape of feet
1. The shape of the feet was incorrect with too much hair trimmed off
2. The shape of the feet was incorrect with too much hair left on
3. The shape of the feet was acceptable but had scope for improvement
4. The shape of the feet was appropriate and correct for the breed
5. The shape of the feet was excellent enhancing the breed trim

- Neat and tidy finish
1. The finished shape was incorrect with too much hair trimmed off
2. The finished shape was incorrect with too much hair left on
3. The finished shape was to the guidelines with only minor imperfections
4. The finished shape was to guidelines with no minor imperfections
5. The finished shape was excellent enhancing the breed trim

Overall balance and shape
- Finish looks balanced and suitable for the dog
1. There was no overall balance and the shape was incorrect
2. The overall balance and shape were unsuitable for the breed
3. The overall balance and shape matched the guidelines but had scope for improvement
4. The overall balance and shape were appropriate and complied with the breed guide lines
5. The overall balance and shape were excellent enhancing the breed trim

- Trimmed as per qualification guidelines
1. The trimming was unsuitable and untidy and did not comply with the guidelines
2. The trimming was untidy not complying with the guidelines
3. The trimming was acceptable according to the qualification guidelines but had scope for improvement
4. The trimming was appropriate and correct to the breed guidelines
5. The trimming was excellent and enhanced the breed shape