Year 10

Unit UCO90: Business and Entrepreneurship in the Hair and Beauty Sector

Business Structures & Operations: Sole trader, partnership, Public Limited Company (PLC), Private Limited Company (LTD), franchise, concession, independent/freelance, not-for-profit organisation.

Salon & Service Types: Aesthetic clinics, blow-dry bars, male grooming, mobile therapists, spas, nail bars, brow bars, complementary therapy centres; shampooing, thermal styling, fading, beard shaping, facials, body wraps, hydrotherapy, gel polish, nail enhancements, prosthetics.

Economics & Interdependencies: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consumer choice, interdependent sectors (leisure & tourism, fashion design, media, retail, aesthetic nursing).

Legislation, Hygiene & Working Practices: Health and Safety at Work Act, Trade Descriptions Act, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), sanitisation, sterilisation, cross-infection, disinfection, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Code of Ethics.

Enterprise & Marketing Principles: Entrepreneurship, Unique Selling Point (USP), market gap, cash budget, target market, 4 Ps of marketing (Product, Price, Place, Promotion).

Market Research & Segmentation: Market segmentation (demographics, location, income), pricing strategies (discounted launch, undercutting, seasonality), primary research (surveys, feedback cards), secondary research, mass market, niche market.

Unit UCO91: Anatomy, Physiology and Cosmetic Science

Cosmetic Chemistry & Ingredients: Phthalates, parabens, titanium dioxide, formaldehyde, UV filters, glycerine, hydrogen peroxide, lanolin, squalene, dimethicone, sodium laureth sulfate, alpha and beta hydroxy acids, dihydroxyacetone.

Ingredient Functions & Safety: Preservation, antioxidants, humectants, emulsifiers, emollients, oxidising agents, foaming agents, propellants, abrasives; hydroquinone, benzyl salicylate, citronellol, triclosan, coal tar, toxicity, carcinogenics.

pH Balance & Testing: Acid, alkali, litmus paper, universal indicator, acid mantle (pH 4.5–6.2).

Anatomy of the Skin: Epidermis (5 layers: basal cell layer, prickle cell layer, granular layer, clear layer, horny layer), Dermis (sweat glands, sebaceous glands, hair follicles, arrector pili muscles, dermal papillae, nerve endings), Subcutaneous/Hypodermis (adipose tissue); Fitzpatrick skin types I–VI.

Skin Conditions & Diseases: Infectious (ringworm, cold sores, impetigo, scabies) vs. non-infectious (eczema, dermatitis, psoriasis, acne); comedones (blackheads), milia (whiteheads), dehydrated, sensitive, mature.

Hair Anatomy, Classifications & Physiology: Cuticle, cortex, medulla, hair bulb, inner/outer root sheath, dermal papilla; Types 1A to 4C (straight, wavy, curly, very curly/coiled); hair characteristics (texture, density, porosity, elasticity).

Nail Anatomy & Pathology: Nail plate, cuticle, lunula, nail wall, nail bed, free edge, matrix; paronychia, leuconychia (white spots), brittle, ridged, peeling nails.

Product Formulation & Life Cycle: Design brief, formulation, toxicity testing, stability, preservation, solutions, solvents, solubility, emulsions, gels, suspensions, cosmetic chemists, toxicologists, microbiologists; single-use plastics, microbeads, palm oil deforestation.

Year 11

Unit UCO92: Design in the Hair and Beauty Sector

Design Briefs & Client Specifications: Creative brief, product design brief, client specification, target audience, time restraints, SMART targets, SWOT analysis.

Problem Solving & Research Methods: Primary/secondary research, qualitative/quantitative data, thought showers, troubleshooting, mind mapping, 5 Whys technique.

Visual Communication & Media: Mood boards, storyboards, face charts, swatches, wigs, prosthetics, body art, props.

Artistic Principles & Visual Language: Formal elements (line, tone, shape, form, pattern, texture, colour, space, balance, proportion, scale), rule of thirds, golden ratio, visual language, framing, composition.

Communication & Reflective Review: Verbal/non-verbal communication, probing questions, active listening, reflective practice, structured feedback, self-evaluation.