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.

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/day

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.inputyouth.co.uk/jobguides/job-hairdresser.html
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.

Communication, all

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.

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)
5. Geometry and measure (angles)

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.

Further Study
FdA Hairdressing Management Specialist Hair and Media Make-up HND Hair, Beauty and Make-up Management Level 4 Hairdressing

Apprenticeships
Intermediate and Advanced Hairdressing or

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
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)

© Crown copyright 2023. This resource is available to use under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/).