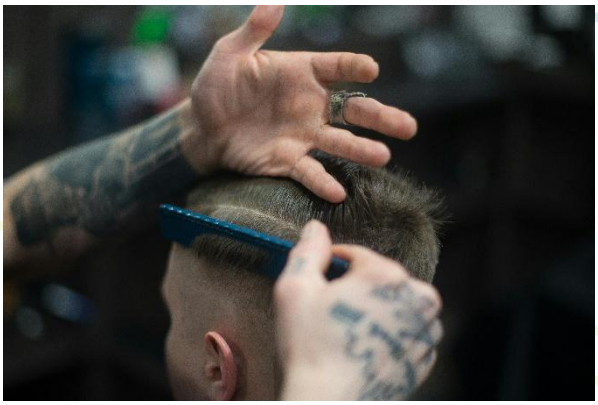
SKILLS
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CAREER OF THE WEEK: Barber



What does a barber do?
Barbers are skilled professionals who cut, style and groom hair, often with a focus on shorter styles and facial hair. A barber's job isn't just about trimming hair – it's also about giving clients confidence and creating a welcoming experience. Daily tasks may include shampooing, cutting, fading, blending and shaping hair, trimming beards and moustaches, offering shaving services, and advising clients on hair and scalp care. Many barbers build strong relationships with regular customers, making their shops social spaces as well as places for grooming. Creativity, attention to detail and good people skills are all key to this career.

What can I expect to earn as a barber?
Earnings can vary depending on experience, location and whether you work for a salon or run your own shop. As a trainee or junior barber, you can expect to earn around the national minimum wage. Once fully qualified, barbers often earn between £18,000 and £25,000 a year. With experience, a strong reputation and a loyal client base, barbers can make £30,000 or more. Those who open their own business or work in high-demand areas may earn even higher. Tips and commission on products can also boost income.

What subjects should I study to become a barber?
While there are no specific GCSEs required, subjects like Art and Design can help you develop creativity and an eye for style. Business Studies or Maths can be useful if you dream of running your own barbershop. English is also important, as clear communication is essential when dealing with clients and colleagues. Most importantly, you'll need hands-on training through a barbering course or apprenticeship.

How can I start my career as a barber?
There are a few routes into barbering. Many people choose an apprenticeship, where you learn on the job while earning a wage. Apprenticeships usually take between one and two years and lead to a recognised qualification such as an NVQ in Barbering. Alternatively, you can study a full-time college course in barbering or men's hairdressing to gain the skills and certificates needed. After qualifying, you'll usually start as a junior barber to build experience. Over time, you could progress to senior barber, manager or even open your own barbershop.

Networking, practising your skills and staying up to date with trends will help you grow in the industry. Social media is also a powerful tool – many barbers use platforms like Instagram and TikTok to showcase their work and attract new clients. If you're creative, sociable and enjoy working with people, barbering could be the perfect career for you.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a barber, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a barber:
National Careers Service – Barber https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/hairdresser
London School of Barbering – How to Become a Barber https://www.londonschoolofbarbering.com/how-to-become-a-barber/
Indeed – How to become a barber https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-a-barber

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