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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

COSMETOLOGY EXAMINATIONS CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

Due to social distancing requirements, all Practical examinations will require candidates to use a mannequin for performing tasks during the administration of the examination. NO MODELS WILL BE ADMITTED until further notice.

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Please refer to our website to check for the most updated information at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/sccos>

The Practical Examination Site location has changed. Please see the new location on page 2.

EXAMINATIONS BY PSI SERVICES LLC

This Candidate Information Bulletin provides you with information about the examination and application process for becoming licensed. To be licensed, you must pass an examination to confirm that you have attained at least a minimum level of knowledge regarding the principles, practices, statutes, and regulations. The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations has contracted with PSI to conduct its examination program.

EXAMINATION PAYMENT AND SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

If you fail, you may retest unlimited until you pass. After passing the examination, apply for your license by submitting an application. For more information visit the Boards website at <https://llr.sc.gov/cosmo/> or email BoardInfo@llr.sc.gov.

Once you are approved by the Department, you will receive an email confirmation from PSI. It is your responsibility to contact PSI to pay and schedule for the examination.

Examination Fee	\$66
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NOTE: EXAMINATION FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE OR TRANSFERABLE. THE EXAMINATION FEE IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF PAYMENT.

ON-LINE (<https://test-takers.psiexams.com/sccos>)

For the fastest and most convenient examination scheduling process, PSI recommends that you register for your examinations using the Internet. You register online by accessing PSI's registration website at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/sccos>. Internet registration is available 24 hours a day.

Log onto PSI's website and select Sign in / Create Account. Select Create Account. You are now ready to pay and schedule for the exam. Enter your zip code and a list of the testing sites closest to you will appear. Once you select the desired test site, available dates will appear.

TELEPHONE (855) 340-3701

For telephone registration, you will need a valid credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover). PSI registrars are available Monday through Friday between 7:30 am and 10:00 pm, and Saturday-Sunday between 9:00 am and 5:30 pm, Eastern Time.

RESCHEDULING/CANCELING AN EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

You may cancel and reschedule an examination appointment without forfeiting your fee if your *cancellation notice is received two (2) days before the scheduled examination date*. For example, for a Monday appointment, the cancellation notice would need to be received on the previous Saturday. You may call PSI at (855) 340-3701.

Note: A voicemail or email message is not an acceptable form of cancellation. Please use the PSI website or call PSI to speak directly to a Customer Service Representative.

RETAKING A FAILED EXAMINATION

It is not possible to make a new examination appointment on the same day you have taken an examination due to processing and reporting results. Depending upon space availability, unsuccessful candidates may be able to retest within two business days. You may access a registration form at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/sccos>. You may also call PSI at (855) 340-3701.

MISSED APPOINTMENT OR LATE CANCELLATION

If you miss your appointment, you will not be able to take the examination as scheduled. You will also forfeit your examination fee, if you:

- Do not cancel your appointment two (2) days before the scheduled examination date;
- Do not appear for your examination appointment;
- Are not checked in by your scheduled start time;
- Do not present proper identification when you arrive for the examination.



EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS (ADA)

All PSI examination centers are equipped to provide access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and exam accommodations will be made as appropriate to meet a candidate's needs. A candidate with a disability or a candidate who would otherwise have difficulty taking the examination must follow the instructions on the Exam Accommodations Request Form at the end of this Candidate Information Bulletin.

EXAMINATION SITE CLOSING FOR AN EMERGENCY

In the event that severe weather or another emergency forces the closure of an examination site on a scheduled examination date, your examination will be rescheduled. PSI personnel will attempt to contact you in this situation. However, you may check the status of your scheduled examination by calling (855) 340-3701. Every effort will be made to reschedule your examination at a convenient time as soon as possible. You may also check our website at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/sccos>.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION SITE LOCATIONS

GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG

Park East, Anderson Building
150 Executive Center Drive, Suite 104
Greenville, South Carolina 29615

From I-85, take I-385 North towards Greenville. Take Roper Mountain exit (Exit 37) and go right (East). Turn right at first street (Independence Blvd). Go 0.7 miles and turn left on Executive Center Drive. The Anderson Building will be on your right.

COLUMBIA

Synergy Business Park
Congaree Building
121 Executive Center Drive, Suite 143
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

From I-20, take exit 63 (Bush River Road). Proceed west and turn right onto Berryhill Road. Turn left onto Executive Center Drive. Enter the Congaree Building through the front door. From the lobby take the corridor to the right to the end and turn left. PSI Suite 143 is on the left.

CHARLESTON

4600 Goer Drive, Suite 112A
North Charleston, South Carolina 29406

At juncture of I-26 and I-526, head Southeast in the direction of Charleston. Next exit is Montague Ave, exit East Montague. Take first right at Goer Drive. Site is adjacent to the Marriott Hotel.

BEAUFORT/HILTON HEAD

Regions Bank Building
69 Robert Smalls Pky/SC-170, Unit 4D
Beaufort, South Carolina 29906

From I-95, take the US-17N exit (Exit Number 33) towards Beaufort. After approximately 9 miles, US 21 splits off to the right and goes to Beaufort and US 17 goes to the left towards Charleston. Continue towards Beaufort on US 21 for approximately 12 miles. Turn sharp right onto SC 170 (McDonalds is on the corner) and continue for .3 miles. The building is on your left.

MYRTLE BEACH

1601 North Oak Street, Suite 305
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577

From the west: Take Rte 501 to 17 Bypass North. Take 17 Bypass North one exit to 10th Avenue (Mr Joe White Ave). Turn right and go about 2 miles to Oak St. Take left on Oak St and follow to #1601 (Myrtle Offices). Go around to back of building. PSI is in Suite #305

From the south: Take 17 Bypass North to 10th Avenue. Turn right and follow above directions.

From the North: Take Rte 31 to Robert Grissom Parkway. Follow RGP to 21st Avenue. Turn left on 21st Ave and follow to Oak St. Turn right on Oak St and follow to #1601. (Myrtle Offices). PSI is around the back of building.

PRACTICAL EXAMINATION SITE LOCATION

COLUMBIA

Columbia Practical
Delta Hotel Columbia North East
8105 Two Notch Rd
Columbia, SC 29223



REPORTING TO THE EXAMINATION SITE

On the day of the examination, you should arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment. This extra time is for sign-in, identification, and familiarizing you with the examination process. *If you arrive late, you may not be admitted to the examination site and you will forfeit your examination registration fee.*

REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION AT EXAMINATION SITE

Candidates must register for the exam with their LEGAL first and last name as it appears on their government issued identification. All required identification below must match the first and last name under which the candidate is registered. Candidates are required to bring two (2) forms of valid (non-expired) signature bearing identification to the test site. If the candidate fails to bring proper identification or the candidate names do not match, the candidate will not be allowed to test, and their examination fee will not be refunded.

PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION - Choose One

NOTE: ID must contain candidate's signature, photo, be valid and unexpired.

- State issued driver's license
- State issued identification card
- US Government Issued Passport
- US Government Issued Military Identification Card
- US Government Issued Alien Registration Card
- Canadian Government Issued ID

SECONDARY IDENTIFICATION - Choose One

- Credit Card (must be signed)
- Social Security Card

NOTE: Student ID and employment ID are **NOT** acceptable forms of identification.

SECURITY PROCEDURES

The following security procedures apply during examinations:

- All personal belongings of candidates should be placed in the secure storage provided at each site prior to entering the examination room. Personal belongings **include, but are not limited to**, the following items:
 - **Electronic devices of any type, including cellular / mobile phones, recording devices, electronic watches, cameras, pagers, laptop computers, tablet computers (e.g., iPads), music players (e.g., iPods), smart watches, radios, or electronic games.**
 - **Bulky or loose clothing or coats** that could be used to conceal recording devices or notes. For security purposes outerwear is not permitted in the testing room. Examples of outerwear include: open sweaters, cardigans, shawls, scarves, hoodies, vests, jackets and coats. **In the event you are asked to remove the outerwear, appropriate attire, such as a shirt or blouse, should be worn underneath.**
 - **Hats or headgear not worn for religious reasons** or as religious apparel, including hats, baseball caps, or visors.
 - **Other personal items**, including purses, notebooks, reference or reading material, briefcases, backpacks, wallets, pens, pencils, other writing devices, food, drinks, and good luck items.
- Although secure storage for personal items is provided at the examination site for your convenience, PSI is not responsible for any damage, loss, or theft of any personal belongings or prohibited items brought to, stored at, or left behind at the examination site. PSI assumes no duty of care with respect to such items and makes no representation that the secure storage provided will be effective in protecting such items. If you leave any items at the examination site after your examination and do not claim them within 30 days, they will be disposed of or donated, at PSI's sole discretion.
- Person(s) accompanying an examination candidate may not wait in the examination center, inside the building or on the building's property. This applies to all guests, including drivers, children, friends, family, colleagues or instructors.
- No smoking, eating, or drinking is allowed in the examination center.
- During the check-in process, all candidates will be asked if they possess any prohibited items. Candidates may also be asked to empty their pockets and turn them out for the proctor to ensure they are empty. The proctor may also ask candidates to lift up the ends of their sleeves and the bottoms of their pant legs to ensure that notes or recording devices are not hidden there.
- Proctors will also carefully inspect eyeglass frames, tie tacks, or any other apparel that could be used to harbor a recording device. Proctors will ask to inspect any such items in candidates' pockets.
- If prohibited items are found during check-in, candidates shall put them in the provided secure storage or return these items to their vehicle. PSI will not be responsible for the security of any personal belongings or prohibited items.
- Any candidate possessing prohibited items in the examination room shall immediately have his or her test results invalidated, and PSI shall notify the Board of the occurrence.
- Any candidate seen giving or receiving assistance on an examination, found with unauthorized materials, or who violates any security regulations will be asked to surrender all examination materials and to leave the examination center. All such instances will be reported to the Board.
- Once candidates have been seated and the examination begins, they may leave the examination room only to use the restroom, and only after obtaining permission from the proctor. Candidate will not receive extra time to complete the examination.

TAKING THE THEORY EXAMINATION (COMPUTER BASED)

The examination will be administered via computer. You will be using a mouse and computer keyboard.

IDENTIFICATION SCREEN

You will be directed to a semiprivate testing station to take the examination. When you are seated at the testing station, you will be prompted to confirm your name, identification number, and the examination for which you are registered.

TUTORIAL

Before you start your examination, an introductory tutorial to the computer and keyboard is provided on the computer screen. The time you spend on this tutorial, up to 15 minutes, DOES NOT count as part of your examination time. Sample questions are included following the tutorial so that you may practice using the keys, answering questions, and reviewing your answers.

TEST QUESTION SCREEN

The “function bar” at the top of the test question screen provides mouse-click access to the features available while taking the examination.

The screenshot shows a web-based test interface. At the top is a 'function bar' with icons and labels for 'Mark', 'Comments', 'Goto', 'Help', and 'End'. Below this is a status bar displaying 'Question: 3 of 40', 'Answered: 2', 'Unanswered: 1', 'Marked: 0', 'View: All', and 'Time Left(Min): 359'. The main area contains a question: '3. What do the stars on the United States of America's flag represent?'. Below the question is a text input field and a prompt '(Choose from the following options)'. There are four radio button options: '1. Presidents', '2. Colonies', '3. States', and '4. Wars'. At the bottom of the question area are two buttons: '<< Back' and 'Next >>'.

One question appears on the screen at a time. During the examination, minutes remaining will be displayed at the top of the screen and updated as you record your answers.

IMPORTANT: After you have entered your responses, you will later be able to return to any question(s) and change your response, provided the examination time has not run out.

EXAMINATION REVIEW

While taking the theory examination, examinees will have the opportunity to provide comments on any questions. Comments may be entered by clicking the Comments link of the function bar of the test question screen.

These comments will be analyzed by PSI examination development staff. PSI does not respond to individuals regarding these comments, all substantive comments are reviewed. **This is the only review of examination materials available to candidates.**

SCORE REPORTING

Examination results for both theory and practical are provided to you immediately following completion of the examination. The minimum score required to pass both the theory and practical examination is 75. When you complete the examination, you will receive a score report indicating “FAIL” or “PASS”.

DUPLICATE SCORE REPORTS

You may request a duplicate score report after your examination by emailing scorereport@psionline.com or by calling (855) 340-3701.

TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR YOUR LICENSE EXAMINATION

The following suggestions will help you prepare for your examination.

- Planned preparation increases your likelihood of passing.
- Start with a current copy of this Candidate Information Bulletin and use the examination content outline as the basis of your study.
- Read study materials that cover all the topics in the content outline.
- Take notes on what you study. Putting information in writing helps you commit it to memory and is also an excellent business practice. Underline or highlight key ideas that will help with a later review.
- Discuss new terms or concepts as frequently as you can with colleagues. This will test your understanding and reinforce ideas.
- Your studies will be most effective if you study frequently, for periods of about 45 to 60 minutes. Concentration tends to wander when you study for longer periods of time.

EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

PRACTICAL EXAMINATION DRESS CODE

You should dress professionally, as you would when you are working in a shop. You are not allowed to have your name, your school name, or a shop name on your professional attire or kit.

NIC EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINES

Please see the following NIC Content Outline pages with details on what you will be tested on for both your theory and practical examinations, a checklist of items that will be needed for your practical examination, and references used for both examinations.



All examination centers are equipped to provide access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Applicants with disabilities or those who would otherwise have difficulty taking the examination may request alternative arrangements by [Clicking Here](#).

Requirements for exam accommodation requests:

You are required to submit documentation from the medical authority or learning institution that rendered a diagnosis. Verification must be uploaded to PSI on the letterhead stationery of the authority or specialist and include the following:

- Description of the disability and limitations related to testing
- Recommended accommodation/modification
- Name, title and telephone number of the medical authority or specialist
- Original signature of the medical authority or specialist

**MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED FOR THE EXAMINATION BEFORE
REQUESTING EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS**

PSI Services LLC
3210 E Tropicana
Las Vegas, NV 89121



NATIONAL COSMETOLOGY
THEORY EXAMINATION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

Please visit your examination provider's website for the most current bulletin prior to testing.

The National Cosmetology Theory Examination is the licensure examination for Cosmetologists, which is developed by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC). This bulletin contains **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** regarding the examination, including content outline covered by the theory examination, sample questions and answers. The time allowed for the Cosmetology Theory Examination is **90 minutes**.

For each NIC National Theory Examination, there are TWO (2) parts to every Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) stored as separate documents:

- **Examination Content** and **Important Instructions** – This document provides information about the scope of content covered in the Theory examination and information and guidelines related to administration of the Theory examination.
- **References** – This document provides a list of references used to develop and support the content covered in the examination. The references are always the same for the Theory and Practical examinations.

**BE CERTAIN TO DOWNLOAD AND/OR PRINT, AND REVIEW BOTH DOCUMENTS THAT
MAKE UP THE NIC EXAMINATION CIB.**

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY!

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not leave the examination area without permission. Permission must be obtained to leave the examination area for any reason, including restroom usage or at the completion of the examination. Picture ID is required for re-entry into examination.
- With the exception of verbal instructions, the proctors and examination administration personnel are not allowed to communicate with candidates.
- If you have an emergency situation please notify the proctor.
- The following provides examples of materials and actions that are prohibited during the examination administration:
 - Possession of cellular phones, watches (of any kind), pagers, tablets, computers, projectors, cameras, or any other electronic or recording devices, printed materials, or handwritten notes.
 - Communicating to other candidates.
 - Exhibiting disruptive behavior.
 - *The above referenced items or actions are not an exhaustive list. Failure to comply with any of these conditions or exhibiting ANY behavior that suggests an effort to cheat will result in your immediate dismissal from the examination and your actions reported to the proper authorities.*

COSMETOLOGY THEORY EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Cosmetology Theory Examination. The percentages represent the percentage of items from each domain. The examination is comprised of 110 items of which 100 items are weighted and contribute to the candidate's final score.

DOMAIN 1: SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS (30%)

A. Infection Control and Safety Practices

1. Identify how disease and infection are caused and transmitted
2. Recognize purpose and/or effects of infection control principles
 - a. Levels of infection control:
 - i. Sanitation/Cleaning
 - ii. Disinfection
 - iii. Sterilization
 - b. Process of infection control:
 - i. Recognize when cross-contamination occurs
 - ii. Prevention of cross-contamination
 - iii. Differentiate between the purpose of single- and multi-use tools
3. Apply blood contact procedures
4. Identify requirements of government agencies:
 - a. OSHA standards
 - b. EPA

B. Human Anatomy and Physiology

1. Identify function and structure of the:
 - a. Hair and scalp
 - b. Skin
 - c. Nails
2. Identify signs and symptoms of conditions, disorders, and diseases related to:
 - a. Hair and scalp
 - b. Skin
 - c. Nails
3. Identify muscles and joints and their functions related to:
 - a. Head and face
 - b. Arms and hands
 - c. Legs and feet
4. Identify functions of:
 - a. Nervous system
 - b. Circulatory system

C. Basic Chemistry of Products Used in Cosmetology

1. Recognize purpose and effects of products and ingredients
2. Recognize interaction between chemicals
3. Recognize physical interactions with chemicals
4. Recognize chemical reactions (e.g., overexposure, chemical burn)
5. Recognize the chemical pH scale

DOMAIN 2: HAIR CARE AND SERVICES (40%)

A. Client Consultation, Analysis and Documentation for Hair Care Services

1. Evaluate condition of client's hair and scalp (i.e., assessment)
2. Recognize conditions that would prohibit service (i.e., contraindications)
3. Determine services or products
4. Recognize purpose and interpret results of preliminary tests (e.g., predisposition and strand tests)
5. Establish/Maintain client records (e.g., service history, client card, medical history)

B. Tools used in Hair Care Services

1. Identify function, purpose and infection control procedures of tools used in hair services:
 - a. Equipment (e.g., chair, workstation)
 - b. Implements (e.g., razors, shears, combs/brushes)
 - c. Supplies and materials (e.g., towels, drape, neck strips)
 - d. Electrical tools (e.g. irons, blow dryers, clippers)
 - e. Proper disinfection procedures
2. Recognize safe practices for use of tools (i.e., equipment, implements, supplies, ergonomics)

C. Hair Care

1. Apply knowledge of principles and procedures for shampooing and conditioning
2. Apply knowledge of principles and procedures for scalp treatments and scalp massage
3. Apply knowledge of draping (e.g. chemical, shampoo, cutting)

D. Hair Design

1. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures and safety of hair cutting and shaping
2. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures and safety of hair styling:
 - a. Wet styling
 - b. Thermal styling
 - c. Natural hair styling (e.g., braiding)
3. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures and safety related to hair enhancements:
 - a. Extension application and removal:
 - i. Braid and sew attachment
 - ii. Bonding
 - iii. Fusion bonding
 - iv. Tube shrinking
 - v. Linking
4. Apply principles of balance and design (e.g. facial shape, physical structure)

E. Chemical Services

1. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures and safety for:
 - a. Hair coloring (including corrective color)
 - b. Hair lightening
 - c. Foiling
 - d. Chemical hair relaxing/restructuring and curl reduction
 - i. Hydroxide
 - ii. Thio
 - iii. Keratin
 - e. Chemical waving/texturizing:
 - i. Alkaline
 - ii. Acid
 - iii. Non-thio
 - iv. Keratin

DOMAIN 3: SKIN CARE AND SERVICES (15%)

A. Client Consultation, Analysis and Documentation for Skin Care Services

1. Evaluate condition of client's skin:
 - a. Skin type
 - b. Skin condition
2. Identify contraindications:
 - a. Disorders
 - b. Diseases
3. Determine services and products
4. Establish/Maintain client records (e.g., service history, client card, medical history)

B. Tools used for skin care services

1. Identify function, purpose and infection control procedures of tools:
 - a. Equipment (e.g., chair, steamer)
 - b. Implements (e.g., tweezers, brushes, extractors)
 - c. Supplies, products, and materials (e.g., creams, masks, towels, body and hair drapes)
 - d. Proper disinfection procedures
2. Recognize and understand safe practices for use of tools (i.e., equipment, implements, supplies, and ergonomics)

C. Facial skin care services

1. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures and safety for:
 - a. Cleansing
 - b. Steaming
 - c. Exfoliation
 - d. Extraction
 - e. Massage
 - f. Masks
 - g. Hair Removal:
 - i. Tweezing
 - ii. Depilatory
 - iii. Hard wax
 - iv. Soft wax
 - h. Makeup application
 - i. Electrical equipment

DOMAIN 4: NAIL CARE AND SERVICES (15%)

A. Client Consultation, Analysis and Documentation for nail care services

1. Evaluate condition of client's nails
2. Identify contraindications:
 - a. Disorders
 - b. Diseases
3. Determine services and products
4. Establish/Maintain client records (e.g., service history, client card, medical history)

B. Tools used in nail care services

1. Identify function, purpose and infection control procedures of tools:
 - a. Equipment (e.g., workstation, pedicure basin)
 - b. Implements (e.g., nippers, file)

- c. Supplies, products, and materials (e.g., towels, creams, polish)
- d. Proper disinfection procedures
- 2. Recognize and understand safe practices for use of tools (i.e., equipment, implements, supplies, and ergonomics)

C. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures and safety for basic manicure and pedicure

D. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures and safety for application, maintenance, and removal of nail enhancements:

- 1. Nail tips
- 2. Acrylics

COSMETOLOGY THEORY EXAMINATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following sample questions are similar to those presented in the NIC Cosmetology Theory Examination. Each item has four answer options. Only one option is correct or the answer. An answer key is provided following the sample questions. Performance on the sample questions may not represent performance on the NIC examination.

- 1. Which of the following will reinforce and reconstruct the hair shaft?
 - (A) Scalp treatment
 - (B) Balancing shampoo
 - (C) Hair brushing
 - (D) Protein conditioner
- 2. When damaged, which of the following will cause the hair growth to be inhibited?
 - (A) Papilla
 - (B) Shaft
 - (C) Cuticle
 - (D) Arrector pili
- 3. A condition caused by an infestation of head lice is
 - (A) tinea barbae.
 - (B) scabies.
 - (C) pediculous capitalis.
 - (D) tinea capitis.
- 4. Debris is removed from tools and implements using which of the following procedures?
 - (A) Cleaning
 - (B) Disinfection
 - (C) Sterilization
 - (D) Decontamination
- 5. What implement adds shine and smooths wavy ridges on the natural nail during a manicure?
 - (A) Coarse file
 - (B) Metal file
 - (C) Nail brush
 - (D) Nail buffer
- 6. What is another name for the dermis layer of the skin?
 - (A) Spiny layer
 - (B) Horny layer
 - (C) True skin
 - (D) Basal cell

7. The massage movement intended to soothe muscles is
(A) petrissage.
(B) tapotement.
(C) friction.
(D) effleurage.
8. What product can be used to equalize the porosity of the hair?
(A) Shampoo
(B) Fillers
(C) Lightener
(D) Developer

KEY: 1: D, 2: A, 3: C, 4: A, 5: D, 6: C, 7: D, 8: B
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To take the NIC Cosmetology Online Practice Exam (English Only) [CLICK HERE](https://www.iqtesting.com/registrationv2008/quickregister.aspx) or go to:
<https://www.iqtesting.com/registrationv2008/quickregister.aspx> (\$39.00 fee applies)
For assistance, please call IQT at 1-866-773-1114.



**NATIONAL COSMETOLOGY
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION**

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please visit your official examination provider website OR www.nictesting.org, for the most current bulletin prior to testing.

**National Cosmetology Practical Examination is the licensure examination
for Cosmetologists, which is developed by the
National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC).**

**This bulletin contains IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the
NIC National Cosmetology Practical Examination content and administration for
Cosmetology core services and additional sections.**

For each NIC National Practical Examination, there are multiple parts to every Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) stored as separate documents:

- ***Important Instructions and Examination Core Domain Content***– This contains information and guidelines related to administration of the Practical examination and information about the scope of content covered in the core sections of the Practical examination.
- ***Additional Services*** – These provide information about additional sections offered by NIC for examination. Check with your State regulatory agency or examination administration vendor to determine which of these sections your State requires as part of their Practical examination.
- ***References*** – This is a list of references used to develop and support the content covered in NIC examinations.

The references will always be the same for both Theory and Practical examinations.

**BE CERTAIN TO DOWNLOAD AND/OR PRINT AND REVIEW ALL DOCUMENTS THAT
MAKE UP THE NIC EXAMINATION CIB.**

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY!

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not leave the examination area without permission. Permission must be obtained to leave the examination area for any reason, including restroom usage or at the completion of the examination. **Picture ID is required for re-entry into the examination.**
- Candidates are required to bring a supply kit for their own use.
 - It is the candidate's responsibility to make certain they have a sufficient quantity of supplies that have been properly cleaned and disinfected and that implements are in proper working order.
 - The kit will be used during the examination as dry storage and is considered part of the work area. The kit must be kept closed (e.g., completely zipped or lid tightly closed) except when removing materials for a particular service.
 - Candidates may remove items, supplies, etc., from the kit at any time, however nothing may be returned to the kit.
 - All examinations are administered in a testing environment.
 - Candidates are evaluated at all times. Continue working until you have completed the entire section or time has elapsed.
 - **EPA registered, disinfectant WIPES that demonstrate bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal properties must be used. DISINFECTANT SPRAYS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED IN THE TESTING ENVIRONMENT.**

NIC National Cosmetology Practical Examination

- Due to standardization of the NIC National Examinations. Proctors and examiners are required to adhere to the following standards:
 - The verbal instructions will be read twice for each section of the examination.
 - With the exception of verbal instructions, the proctors are not allowed to communicate with candidates.
 - Examiners are not allowed to speak with candidates.
 - Candidates requesting information during the examination will be told one of the following statements:
 - “Do the best you can with what you have available.”
 - “Do as you were taught.”
 - If a candidate experiences an emergency situation, please notify the proctor by raising your hand.
- Candidates will be given time to set up the universal (also known as general) supplies they will use throughout the examination.
 - Each section of the examination has a maximum time allowance, with the exception of those specified as untimed sections.
 - Once a candidate has completed all tasks in the section, please step back or turn the hand toward the examiner (in the case of nail sections) to indicate they have finished.
 - In the event that all candidates complete a section before the time has elapsed, the examiners will proceed to the next section of the examination.
 - When the timer goes off, all candidates must stop working and step back or turn the hand toward the examiner (in the case of nail services) IMMEDIATELY.
- During all phases of the examination, candidates must follow all appropriate public protection and infection control procedures and maintain a safe work area.
 - In the event of a blood exposure incident, candidates will be expected to follow the NIC Blood Exposure Procedure.

Failure to do so may result in your dismissal from the examination.

- *Be sure to contact your examination provider to obtain the most current version of, and any addendums, to the NIC Blood Exposure Procedure, OR go to www.nictesting.org for a current downloadable copy.*
- **If a candidate does not follow infection control procedures or allows the work area to become and remain unsafe, the result may be a failing score for the examination.**
- The following provides examples of materials and actions that are prohibited during the examination administration:
 - Possession of cellular phones, watches (of any kind), pagers, tablets, computers, projectors, cameras, or any other electronic or recording devices, printed materials, or handwritten notes.
 - Purses, bags, coats, hats, and any other personal items not directly needed to complete the examination, are not allowed.
 - Exhibiting disruptive behavior.
 - Communicating to other candidates or any examiner.
 - *The above referenced items or actions are not an exhaustive list. Failure to comply with any of these conditions or exhibiting ANY behavior that suggests an effort to cheat will result in the immediate dismissal from the examination and the candidate's actions reported to the proper authorities.*
- **All supplies must be labeled in English.** When an original manufacturer's label is required, there can be NO handwritten or any other type of labeling. Original manufacturers' labels must have English and may also include other languages. All non-manufacturers created labels must be only in English.
 - Original manufacturer's labels are *required* for all disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
 - **EPA-registered disinfectant WIPES that demonstrate bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal**

properties must be used. DISINFECTANT SPRAYS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED IN THE TESTING ENVIRONMENT. Please refer to the “*Suggested Examination Supplies*” section to see any further state specific requirements for supplies and products.

- Simulated products are *not* allowed for disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
- **NO AEROSOLS OR DISINFECTANT SPRAYS** are allowed in the testing environment.
- Candidates are to perform all tasks, utilizing products and supplies, and as they were taught. There is however, a section titled “*Suggested Examination Supplies*” provided following the “Content Domains” section of this bulletin for items that a candidate may *possibly* utilize in a section.

NIC MODEL OR MANNEQUIN REQUIREMENTS

Please refer to your state specific guidelines for model and mannequin requirements.

If your state requires that you use a mannequin head(s) or hand(s):

- Candidates who are required to use a mannequin head(s), it is the candidate’s responsibility to come prepared for the examination.
- Mannequin heads that are premarked or presectioned are not allowed for any part of the practical examination.
- Candidates who are required to use a mannequin hand(s). It is the candidate’s responsibility to come prepared for the examination.
- Mannequin hands must be an entire hand and cannot have removable digits.
- Mannequin heads and hands must be approved by the examination state/vendor prior to admittance into examination.

SPECIAL ATTENTION

The following information is vital and specific to the
NIC National Cosmetology Practical Examination:

- Candidates will be evaluated on proper designation of materials that are disposed. Candidates are **required** to bring and use the following supplies for the appropriate disposal of materials:
 - Container **labeled** “**To be disinfected**”
 - Container **labeled** “**Soiled linens**”
 - Container **labeled** “**Trash**”
- It is specified that there is **more than one client** represented for the purpose of this examination. A new client is introduced and must be prepared for during the course of the examination (see Cosmetology Practical Examination Content Domains Sections).
- The following sections are new to the Cosmetology Practical Examination:
 - Predisposition Test and Strand Test with Simulated Product (Content Domain Section 6)
 - Highlighting with Foil, Virgin Application with Colored Simulated Product (Content Domain Section 7)
 - Blood Exposure Procedure (Content Domain Section 10)

Candidates are expected to brace any time they are working around the eye and mouth areas.

- Candidates are not allowed to label products as single-use items.
- Use of single-use products may result in a failing score for the examination.

**COSMETOLOGY PRACTICAL EXAMINATION
CONTENT DOMAIN SECTIONS**

The scope of the National Cosmetology Practical Examination includes 10 (ten) core domain sections. The Core Domain Sections are based on the national job analysis.

1. **Work Area and Client Preparation, and Set Up of Supplies** (First client (15 minutes)
2. **Thermal Curling** (10 minutes)
3. **Haircutting** (30 minutes)
4. **Work Area and New Client Preparation, and Set Up of Supplies** (Second client 15 minutes)
5. **Chemical Waving** (20 minutes)
6. **Predisposition Test and Strand Test with Simulated Product** (10 minutes)
7. **Highlighting with Foil, Virgin Application with Colored Simulated Product** (15 minutes)
8. **Hair Color Retouch with Colored Simulated Product** (10 minutes)
9. **Virgin Hair Relaxer Application with Colored Simulated Product** (Untimed)
10. **Blood Exposure Procedure** (10 minutes)

CONTENT DOMAINS

1. WORK AREA AND CLIENT PREPARATION, AND SET UP OF SUPPLIES (15 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will prepare your work area for your client.”

“You will set up the universal supplies you will use throughout the examination.”

“You will also set up the supplies for the following sections of the examination:

Thermal Curling,

Haircutting,

Additional verbal instruction specific to state guidelines

“Plug your curling iron in at this time.” (Read only if hot iron is used)

“You will prepare your client for services.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 8 minutes remaining.”

“Do not demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”

(2) “You may begin.”

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 1.1 Disinfects all work areas completely with product labeled in English as EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant**
- 1.2 Sanitizes hands with product labeled in English**
- 1.3 Universal supplies are labeled in English**
- 1.4 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working.”

2. THERMAL CURLING (10 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform Thermal Curling.”

“You will form two curls on the top of the head and two curls on one side of the head.”

“A complete curl must be formed from base to end.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

2.1 Thermal curling supplies are labeled in English

2.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

2.3 Tests temperature of iron

2.4 Subsections hair for thermal curling

2.5 Demonstrates safe use of iron

2.6 Final appearance of four curls

2.7 Maintains drape throughout section

2.8 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working.”

3. HAIRCUTTING (30 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform a Haircut.”

“You will complete a basic layered haircut using razor and shears.”

“You will cut at least 1 inch of hair throughout the haircut.”

“Do not remove your hair clippings from your work area until you are instructed individually, by the examiner, to do so.”

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination – Haircutting (continued)

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 30 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 15 minutes remaining.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”

(2) “You may begin.”

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 3.1 Haircutting supplies are labeled in English**
- 3.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean**
- 3.3 Subsections hair for Haircutting**
- 3.4 Demonstrates safe use of razor**
- 3.5 Demonstrates safe use of shears**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“May I please use your comb to check the haircut?”

- 3.6 Cuts entire nape line to a uniform length**
- 3.7 Cuts sides uniform in length**
- 3.8 Blends haircut**

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually after the final appearance of the haircut has been examined:

“Please clean up your hair at this time. Upon completion, please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

- 3.9 Removes hair from work area**
- 3.10 Maintains drape throughout section**
- 3.11 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidates when all examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment:

“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”

4. WORK AREA AND NEW CLIENT PREPARATION, AND SET UP OF SUPPLIES (15 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will breakdown your work area and dispose of supplies used in the previous sections of this examination .”

“You will prepare your work area for a NEW client.”

“You will set up the universal supplies you will use for the remainder of the examination.”

“You will also set up the supplies for the following sections of the examination:

Chemical Waving,

Predisposition Test and Strand Test,

Highlighting with Foil, Virgin Application,

Hair Color Retouch,

Virgin Hair Relaxer Application.”

Additional verbal instruction specific to state guidelines

“Plug your wax pot in at this time.” (Review your state examination guidelines)

“You will prepare your client for chemical services.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 8 minutes remaining.”

“Do not demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”

(2) “You may begin.”

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 4.1 Disinfects all work areas completely with product labeled in English as EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant**
- 4.2 Sanitizes hands with product labeled in English**
- 4.3 Universal supplies are labeled in English**
- 4.4 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working.”

5. CHEMICAL WAVING (20 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform Chemical Waving.”

“You will wrap the entire center back section of the head, from crown to nape.”

“Once you are finished wrapping, please step back and do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”

“Do not perform the saturation procedure, a test curl, or remove a rod until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”

“Do not remove the remaining rods until you are instructed to do so.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

5.1 Chemical waving supplies are labeled in English

5.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

5.3 Subsections hair for chemical waving

5.4 Wraps hair

5.5 Correct rod placement used throughout entire section

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“Please demonstrate saturation”

5.6 Demonstrates saturation

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“Please demonstrate a test curl.”

5.7 Demonstrates a test curl

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“Please remove one rod from the hair.”

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination –Chemical Waving (continued)

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Once rod is removed from the hair, read individually to candidate:
“Do not remove the remaining rods until instructed to do so.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read when all examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed:
“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”
“You will remove all remaining rods from the head and create 5 sections for the remaining chemical services.”
“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”
“You will have 5 minutes to complete this section.”
“You will be informed when you have 2 minutes remaining.”
“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

- (1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*
- (2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 5.8 Maintains drape throughout section**
- 5.9 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:
“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:
“Please stop working.”

6. PREDISPOSITION TEST AND STRAND TEST WITH SIMULATED PRODUCT (10 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You will perform the Predisposition Test and Strand Test for permanent hair color.”
“You will demonstrate the predisposition test behind the ear.”
“You will demonstrate the strand test process on any single subsection of hair.”
“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”
“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”
“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”
“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

- (1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*
- (2) *“You may begin.”*

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination –Predisposition Test and Strand Test (continued)

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 6.1 Predisposition test and strand test supplies are labeled in English**
- 6.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean**
- 6.3 Demonstrates predisposition test behind the ear**
- 6.4 Demonstrates strand test process**
- 6.5 Maintains drape throughout section**
- 6.6 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working.”

7. HIGHLIGHTING WITH FOIL, VIRGIN APPLICATION WITH COLORED SIMULATED PRODUCT (15 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform Highlighting with Foil, Virgin Application.”

“You will place four foils on the top of the head from the front hairline to the apex.”

“You will apply simulated highlighting product from upper edge of foils to hair ends.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 8 minutes remaining.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”

(2) “You may begin.”

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 7.1 Highlighting with foil supplies are labeled in English**
- 7.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean**
- 7.3 Subsections hair for highlighting with foils**
- 7.4 Uses correct foil placement**

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination –Highlighting with Foil, Virgin Application (continued)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

7.5 Final result of simulated product application

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidate individually once the final appearance of the foil has been examined:

“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

7.6 Maintains drape throughout section

7.7 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates once examiners have completed assessment for this section:

“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”

8. HAIR COLOR RETOUCH WITH COLORED SIMULATED PRODUCT (10 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform a Hair Color Retouch Application.”

“You will apply simulated hair color product to one section of the back of the head.”

“The client has 1 inch of regrowth.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

8.1 Hair color retouch supplies are labeled in English

8.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

8.3 Subsections hair for hair color retouch

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination –Hair Color Retouch (continued)

- 8.4 Applies simulated hair color product
- 8.5 Final result of hair color retouch application
- 8.6 Maintains drape throughout section
- 8.7 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:
“Please stop working.”

9. VIRGIN HAIR RELAXER APPLICATION WITH COLORED SIMULATED PRODUCT (Untimed)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform a Virgin Hair Relaxer Application.”

“You will apply simulated relaxer product on a single subsection of hair.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will be instructed individually by the examiner to demonstrate a virgin hair relaxer application”

“This is an untimed section.”

“Do not begin to demonstrate the virgin relaxer application until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”

(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 9.1 Virgin hair relaxer supplies are labeled in English
- 9.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“Please demonstrate the virgin relaxer application procedure.”

- 9.3 Subsections hair for relaxer application
- 9.4 Applies simulated relaxer product

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually after virgin relaxer application has been examined:

“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination –Virgin Hair Relaxer (continued)

9.5 Maintains drape throughout section

9.6 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidates when all examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment:

"All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed."

10. BLOOD EXPOSURE PROCEDURE (10 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

"You will demonstrate the Blood Exposure Procedure."

"You will imagine the following scenario: During a service, you have sustained a minor cut to your index finger. The injury is such that you can continue with the service. Your work area or client has not been contaminated. You are expected to demonstrate the proper procedure for a blood exposure."

"You are expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures."

"You will have 10 minutes to complete this section."

"You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining."

"Step back to indicate you have finished."

(1) *"The instructions will be repeated."*

(2) *"You may begin."*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

10.1 Blood exposure supplies are labeled in English

10.2 Removes materials from first aid kit

10.3 Supplies and materials are visibly clean

10.4 Cleans injured area with antiseptic

10.5 Covers with dressing that is absorbent and secured

10.6 Candidate wears glove or finger guard

10.7 Disposes of all contaminated supplies

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

"All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed."

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

"Please stop working."

CANDIDATE CLEANUP AND FINAL SUMMARY

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates at the conclusion of the examination:

“All examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment.”

“Make sure that all kit supplies and disposable materials are taken with you.”

“This concludes the National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, National Cosmetology Practical Examination.”

“Thank you for your participation”

SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

Suggested supply list:

- This is a list of suggested supplies for the practical examination.
- Candidates are responsible for bringing all needed materials, even if not included on this list.

Information related to labeling of supplies:

- ALL supplies must be labeled in English
- No other languages can be present unless an original manufacturer's label is present
- Original manufacturers' labels MUST have English and may be multi-language
- All other created labels must be only English

EXAMINATION UNIVERSAL/GENERAL SUPPLIES

- candidate supply kit to serve as dry storage area (must be closeable)
- EPA-registered disinfectant wipes with manufacturer's label that demonstrate bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used (must be actual disinfectant wipes)
- hand sanitizer and manufacturer's label (must be actual hand sanitizer)
- container labeled "items to be disinfected"
- container labeled "soiled linens"
- container labeled "trash"
- first aid kit
- paper towels

HAIR CARE – UNIVERSAL/GENERAL SUPPLIES

- mannequin head(s) and a table clamp or tri-pod (pre-markings or pre-sectioning on mannequins is not permitted)
- protective capes (child size capes may be used)
- neck strip(s)
- cloth towels
- hair clip(s) and/or clamp(s)
- comb(s)
- hair brush(es)
- spray bottle with water
- protective cream
- spatula(s)
- cotton
- gloves

THERMAL CURLING SUPPLIES

- thermal curling iron with cord unbound and/or unaltered
- material for testing temperature of iron

HAIRCUTTING SUPPLIES

- shears
- razor

CHEMICAL WAVING SUPPLIES

- chemical wave rods
- end papers
- simulated waving lotion (water)

PREDISPOSITION TEST AND STRAND TEST WITH COLORED SIMULATED PRODUCT SUPPLIES

- brush and bowl or bottle applicator
- hair color-colored simulated product
- skin cleanser

HIGHLIGHTENING WITH FOIL, VIRGIN APPLICATION WITH COLORED SIMULATED PRODUCT SUPPLIES

- brush and bowl or bottle applicator
- colored simulated product
- foils

HAIR COLOR RETOUCH WITH COLORED SIMULATED PRODUCT SUPPLIES

- brush and bowl or bottle applicator
- colored simulated product

VIRGIN HAIR RELAXER APPLICATION WITH COLORED SIMULATED PRODUCT SUPPLIES

- brush bowl or bottle applicator
- colored simulated product

BLOOD EXPOSURE PROCEDURE SUPPLIES

- additional bag for disposal of blood-contaminated materials

14. BASIC FACIAL (20 minutes)

+ ADDITIONAL SECTION +

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Basic Facial section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been you are instructed to begin.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform a Basic Facial.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 14.1 Basic facial supplies are labeled in English
- 14.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 14.3 Cleanses eye area completely
- 14.4 Cleanses lips completely
- 14.5 Distributes cleanser over face
- 14.6 Removes residual cleanser
- 14.7 Applies toner/astringent
- 14.8 Applies exfoliating product over face and manipulates with implement or material excluding eyes and mouth
- 14.9 Steam towel is applied and removed
- 14.10 Removes residual product
- 14.11 Distributes massage product over face
- 14.12 Demonstrates effleurage movement
- 14.13 Demonstrates petrissage movement
- 14.14 Demonstrates tapotement movement

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination – Basic Facial (continued)

- 14.15 Demonstrates friction movement**
- 14.16 Removes residual massage product**
- 14.17 Applies toner/astringent**
- 14.18 Applies moisturizer**
- 14.19 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working.”

SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

Information related to labeling of supplies:

- ALL supplies must be labeled in English
- No other languages can be present unless an original manufacturer’s label is present
- Original manufacturers’ labels MUST have English and may be multi-language
- All other created labels must be only English

BASIC FACIAL SUPPLIES

- hair band or drape
- body drape
- bowl and water (if needed)
- sponges, 4X4’s, cotton rounds
- wet steam towel(s)
- facial cleanser
- exfoliation product
- implement or material for exfoliation
- massage product
- astringent or toner

15. HAIR REMOVAL OF THE EYEBROWS BY TWEEZING AND USING SIMULATED SOFT WAX (Untimed)

+ ADDITIONAL SECTION +

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Hair Removal of the Eyebrows by Tweezing and using Simulated Soft Wax section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform Hair Removal of the Eyebrows by Tweezing and Using Simulated Soft Wax.”

“You will demonstrate hair removal from one eyebrow by tweezing.”

“You will demonstrate hair removal from the other eyebrow using simulated soft wax.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will be instructed individually by the examiner to demonstrate the tweezing and soft wax procedures.”

“This is an untimed section.”

“Do not begin to demonstrate the tweezing and soft wax procedures until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

15.1 Hair removal supplies are labeled in English

15.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

HAIR REMOVAL OF EYEBROWS – TWEEZING

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“Please demonstrate hair removal of the eyebrow by tweezing.”

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination – Hair Removal of the Eyebrows by using Tweezing and Simulated Soft Wax (continued)

- 15.3 Candidate wears gloves
- 15.4 Applies antiseptic to eyebrow area
- 15.5 Holds skin taut
- 15.6 Demonstrates tweezing of hair in direction of hair growth
- 15.7 Applies antiseptic to treated area

HAIR REMOVAL OF EYEBROWS - SIMULATED SOFT WAX

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“Please demonstrate hair removal of the eyebrow using simulated soft wax.”

- 15.8 Applies antiseptic to eyebrow area
- 15.9 Uses absorbent material or product to dry eyebrow area
- 15.10 Tests temperature of simulated soft wax product on wrist
- 15.11 Applies simulated soft wax product along entire length of eyebrow in direction of hair growth
- 15.12 Smooths wax strip over simulated soft wax product
- 15.13 Holds skin taut
- 15.14 Removes wax strip in opposite direction of hair growth
- 15.15 Applies antiseptic to treated area
- 15.16 Applies post-epilation product to treated area

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidate individually after hair removal of the eyebrows by tweezing and using simulated soft wax has been examined:

“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

- 15.17 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidates when all examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment:

“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”

SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

Information related to labeling of supplies:

- ALL supplies must be labeled in English
- No other languages can be present unless an original manufacturer's label is present
- Original manufacturers' labels MUST have English and may be multi-language
- All other created labels must be only English

HAIR REMOVAL OF THE EYEBROWS BY TWEEZING USING SIMULATED SOFT WAX SUPPLIES

- hair band or drape
- antiseptic
- tweezers
- wax strips
- wax applicators
- simulated soft wax product
- post-epilation product

16. HAIR REMOVAL OF THE UPPER LIP USING HARD WAX (Untimed)

+ ADDITIONAL SECTION +

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Hair Removal of the Upper Lip Using Hard Wax section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform Hair Removal of the Upper Lip.”

“You will use real hard wax.”

“You will demonstrate the procedure on the entire upper lip”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will be instructed individually by the examiner to demonstrate the hard wax procedure.”

“This is an untimed section.”

“Do not begin to demonstrate the hard wax procedure until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

16.1 Hair removal supplies are labeled in English

16.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:

“Please demonstrate hair removal of the upper lip using hard wax.”

16.3 Candidate wears gloves

16.4 Cleanse area to be waxed

16.5 Uses absorbent material or product to dry area to be waxed

16.6 Tests temperature of hard wax on wrist

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination – Hair Removal of the Upper Lip using Hard Wax (continued)

- 16.7 Applies hard wax along upper lip area**
- 16.8 Holds skin taut**
- 16.9 Removes hard wax**
- 16.10 Applies antiseptic to treated area**
- 16.11 Applies post-epilation product to treated area**

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidate individually after hair removal of the upper lip using hard wax has been examined:

“Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

- 16.12 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidates when all examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment:

“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”

SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

Information related to labeling of supplies:

- ALL supplies must be labeled in English
- No other languages can be present unless an original manufacturer’s label is present
- Original manufacturers’ labels MUST have English and may be multi-language
- All other created labels must be only English

HAIR REMOVAL OF UPPER LIP USING HARD WAX SUPPLIES

- hair band or drape
- Antiseptic
- wax heater
- actual hard wax (only enough to wax the upper lip)
- post-epilation product

18. MANICURE AND POLISH APPLICATION (20 minutes)

+ ADDITIONAL SECTION +

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Manicure and Polish Application section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”

“Turn the hand toward the examiner to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have turned the hand to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have turned the hand:

“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“You will perform a Manicure and Polish Application.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”

“Turn the hand toward the examiner to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 18.1 Manicure and polish supplies are labeled in English
- 18.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 18.3 Sanitizes hand to be manicured with product labeled in English
- 18.4 Shapes free edges to establish uniform length and shape
- 18.5 Immerses all fingernails in bowl of water
- 18.6 Applies cuticle remover
- 18.7 Pushes back cuticles
- 18.8 Cleans under free edge
- 18.9 Brushes or wipes nails to remove product or remaining debris
- 18.10 Buffs nails
- 18.11 Applies cuticle oil
- 18.12 Applies massage product
- 18.13 Performs massage on the fingers, top and palm of the hand demonstrating at LEAST 2 different types of massage movements

NIC Cosmetology Practical Examination –Manicure and Polish Application (continued)

18.14 Cleanse each nail plate with appropriate solution

18.15 Applies basecoat to cover entire nail plate

18.16 Applies red polish to cover entire nail plate

18.17 Applies topcoat to cover entire nail plate

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have turned the hand to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have turned the hand:

“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

18.18 Final appearance of polish is smooth and even

18.19 Nail plate is entirely covered with red polish

18.20 Cuticle and surrounding skin are free of polish and free of injury

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to candidate individually after the manicure and polish has been examined:

“Please do nothing until further instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed with the examination.”

“You will remove the polish from all nails and properly dispose of supplies used in the previous section of the examination.”

“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 5 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 2 minutes remaining.”

“Turn the hand toward the examiner to indicate you have finished.”

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

18.21 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if all candidates have turned the hand to indicate they have completed the section before timing has elapsed:

“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have turned the hand:
“Please stop working.”

SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

Information related to labeling of supplies:

- ALL supplies must be labeled in English
- No other languages can be present unless an original manufacturer’s label is present
- Original manufacturers’ labels MUST have English and may be multi-language
- All other created labels must be only English

MANICURE AND POLISH APPLICATION SUPPLIES

- mannequin hand(s) with artificial nails attached (**Must be entire hand; cannot have removable digits.**)
- bowl (**finger bowl**)
- water
- nail file(s) and/or buffer(s)
- cotton
- cuticle cream/remover
- cuticle pusher
- nail brush
- massage product
- base coat
- top coat
- red polish
- polish remover