SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATIONS
COSMETOLOGY ESTHETICS 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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Fee</th>
<th>Written $66 Practical $56</th>
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<tr>
<td>NOTE: EXAMINATION FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE OR TRANSFERABLE. THE EXAMINATION FEE IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF PAYMENT.</td>
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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.

RETAILING 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/scbos.

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.
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.

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.

**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
The National Esthetics Theory Examination is the licensure examination for Estheticians, 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, and references. The time allowed for the Esthetics Theory Examination is 90 minutes.

**PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY**

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 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 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, 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.
The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Esthetics 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 I: SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS (55%)**

A. Basic knowledge of microbiology (i.e., bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi)

B. Apply knowledge of infection control procedures related to:
   1. Levels of infection control (i.e., sanitation, disinfection, sterilization)
   2. Methods of infection control (i.e., heat, chemical agents)

C. Apply knowledge of safety procedures and guidelines related to:
   1. Standard (Universal) Precautions
   2. Blood exposure procedures
   3. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) (e.g., manufacturer’s labeling)
   4. Handling of chemicals

D. Demonstrate a basic understanding of human physiology and anatomy related to:
   1. Cells and their functions
   2. Tissues (i.e., epithelial, connective, nerve, muscular)
   3. Organs and their function (e.g., skin, lungs, heart)
   4. Systems and their functions (e.g., muscular, integumentary, nervous, endocrine, skeletal)

E. Demonstrate an understanding of histology and physiology of the skin related to:
   1. Structure and function of the layers of the skin
   2. Structure and function of the glands
   3. Functions of the skin (e.g., protection, temperature regulation, absorption)

F. Recognize and understand skin disorders and diseases related to:
   1. Disorders of the sebaceous gland (e.g., acne, milia, seborrhea)
   2. Disorders of the sudoriferous gland (e.g., hyperhidrosis, bromhidrosis, anhidrosis)
   3. Contagious diseases (e.g., bacterial conjunctivitis, herpes simplex, tinea)
   4. Skin inflammations (e.g., dermatitis, eczema, rosacea)
   5. Skin pigmentation (i.e., hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation)
   6. Skin growths (e.g., skin tags, moles, keratoma)
   7. Skin cancers (i.e., basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, melanoma)
   8. Primary and secondary skin lesions

G. Understanding function and composition of the hair related to:
   1. Structure of the hair and its follicle
   2. Growth cycles
   3. Abnormal hair growth (e.g., hirsutism, hypertrichosis)

H. Understanding basic chemistry as related to:
   1. Ingredients
   2. Labeling
   3. Function (e.g., hydration, protection, cleanse)
   4. Acidity/Alkalinity (i.e., pH)
Domain II: SKIN CARE AND SERVICES (45%)
A. Demonstrate an understanding of performing a client consultation and documentation (e.g., health history, intake form, consultation chart, physician release)
B. Apply knowledge of client protection (i.e., draping of head and body)
C. Skin analysis (e.g., Fitzpatrick skin types/conditions/characteristics)
D. Contraindications for skin services
E. Treatment protocol
F. Demonstrate an understanding of cleansing procedures
G. Demonstrate an understanding of steaming procedures
H. Demonstrate an understanding of exfoliation procedures (i.e., chemical, mechanical/manual)
I. Demonstrate a basic understanding of massage movements
J. Demonstrate an understanding of methods of extraction
K. Demonstrate an understanding of the functions and applications of masks related to:
   1. Clay/Mud
   2. Gel
   3. Rubberized
   4. Cream
   5. Sheet mask (e.g., collagen, gauze, pre-cut)
   6. Thermal (e.g., paraffin, mineral)
L. Demonstrate an understanding of the conclusion of facial services:
   1. Moisturize
   2. Sun protection
   3. Home care (i.e., after care)
M. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the use of electrical equipment used in skin services
N. Demonstrate an understanding of makeup as related to:
   1. Principles (e.g., color theory)
   2. Product selection (e.g., lipstick, foundation)
   3. Application (e.g., contouring, highlighting, blending)
   4. Safety (e.g., bracing)
   5. Infection control (e.g., disposables, disinfection of tools)
O. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of other services related to:
   1. Facial services (e.g., aromatherapy, pre- and post-surgical/medical treatments, ultrasonic)
   2. Body treatments (body wraps, body scrubs, sunless tanning)
   3. Eyelash and eyebrow services (e.g., lash and brow tinting, artificial lashes, lash lifting/perming)
   4. Demonstrate an understanding of hair removal methods and procedures (i.e., waxing, tweezing)
   5. Wellness programs
ESTHETICS SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Esthetics Theory Examination. Each question is followed by four answer options. Only one option is correct. Correct answers (keys) are listed following the sample questions.

1. What is the term for the scientific study of the skin?
   a. Myology
   b. Angiology
   c. Physiology
   d. Dermatology

2. A product containing antiseptic reaches what level of decontamination?
   a. Disinfection
   b. Sterilization
   c. Ionization
   d. Sanitation

3. Which of the following is also referred to as the basal layer?
   a. Stratum granulosum
   b. Stratum lucidum
   c. Stratum germinativum
   d. Stratum corneum

4. During the anagen phase of hair growth, the hair is
   a. beginning to destroy itself.
   b. actively growing.
   c. shedding.
   d. disconnecting from the papilla.

5. A new client schedules a series of chemical exfoliation treatments. When should the consultation form be reviewed and signed?
   a. Monthly
   b. Annually
   c. At the first treatment
   d. At each treatment

6. Dilated capillaries that can be seen beneath the surface of the skin are known as
   a. seborrhea.
   b. keratoma.
   c. telangiectasia.
   d. dehydrated.

7. Melanocytes that are more active will produce
   a. lighter skin.
   b. darker skin.
   c. sebaceous skin.
   d. dry skin.
8. In addition to softening sebum, another function of a facial steamer is to
   a. oxygenate the skin.
   b. moisturize the skin.
   c. decrease circulation.
   d. detoxify the skin.

   **Answers**
   1. d  3. c  5. d  7. b
   2. d  4. b  6. c  8. a
The NIC National Esthetics Practical Examination is the licensure examination for Esthetics, which is developed by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC).

This bulletin contains IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the NIC National Esthetics Practical Examination content and administration for Esthetics 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. Go to www.nictesting.org for a current downloadable copy of each of the following:

- **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.**

- 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, they should 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...
• 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.
  o Original manufacturer’s labels are required for all disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
  o 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.
  o Simulated products are not allowed for disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
  o NO AEROSOLS OR DISINFECTANT SPRAYS are allowed in the testing environment.
  o Candidates are to perform all tasks, utilizing products and supplies, 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 the examination.

SPECIAL ATTENTION!
The following information is vital and specific to the National Esthetics Practical Examination:

• Candidates will be evaluated on proper designation of materials that are disposed. You are required to bring and use the following supplies for the appropriate disposal of materials:
  o Container labeled “to be disinfected”
  o Container labeled “soiled linens”
  o 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 Esthetics Practical Examination Content Domain Sections). All additional services (varies by state) will be performed on Client 2.
• 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.
• Candidates are expected to brace any time they are working around the eye and mouth areas.
• In accordance with manufacturer’s guidelines, gloves MUST be worn during disinfection procedures.
ESTHETICS PRACTICAL EXAMINATION
CONTENT DOMAIN SECTIONS

The scope of the National Esthetics Practical Examination includes 6 (six) core domain services. The Core Domain Sections are based on the national job analysis.

1. **Work Area Preparation and Set Up of Supplies** (First client) (10 minutes)
2. **Client Preparation and Basic Facial** (25 minutes)
3. **Work Area Preparation for New Client and Set Up of Supplies** (Second client) (10 minutes)
4. **New Client Preparation and Hair Removal of the Eyebrows Using Simulated Soft Wax and Tweezing** (5 minute set-up, Untimed procedure)
5. **Facial Makeup** (20 minutes)
6. **Blood Exposure Procedure** (10 minutes)
7. **Particle Microdermabrasion on the Forehead** (10 minutes) +ADDITIONAL SECTION (Performed on Client 2)+
8. **Eyelash Enhancement** (10 minutes) +ADDITIONAL SECTION (Performed on Client 2)+
9. **Hair Removal of the Upper Lip Using Hard Wax** (10 minutes) +ADDITIONAL SECTION (Performed on Client 2)+
CONTENT DOMAINS

1. WORK AREA PREPARATION AND SET UP OF SUPPLIES
   (10 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 Basic Facial section of the examination.”
“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.”
“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 disinfectant that is virucidal, bactericidal, and fungicidal
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 that 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. CLIENT PREPARATION AND BASIC FACIAL
(25 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You will prepare your CLIENT for services.”
“You will perform a Basic Facial.”
“The basic facial will include cleansing, manual exfoliation, towel steaming, massage, and mask.”
“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”
“You will have 25 minutes to complete this section.”
“You will be informed when you have 12 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 Basic facial supplies are labeled in English
2.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
2.3 Cleanses entire face
2.4 Performs exfoliation with manual exfoliant using an implement or material on entire face excluding eyes and lips
2.5 Steams the face with towel and removes residual product completely
2.6 Demonstrates facial massage procedure using 4 different types of facial massage movements
2.7 Demonstrates facial mask application and concludes the service
2.8 Maintains drape throughout section
2.9 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 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. WORK AREA PREPARATION FOR NEW CLIENT AND SET UP OF SUPPLIES (10 minutes)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

“You will break down 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 for the following sections of the examination:

- Hair Removal of the Eyebrow using Simulated Soft Wax and Tweezing,
- Facial Makeup.”

“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.”

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

“Step back to indicate you have finished.”

*Additional verbal instruction specific to state guidelines for hard wax:*

“Plug in your wax pot at this time.” *(If additional hard wax section is administered)*

(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”

(2) “You may begin.”

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

3.1 Disinfects all work areas completely with product labeled in English as EPA-registered disinfectant that is virucidal, bactericidal, and fungicidal

3.2 Sanitizes hands with product labeled in English

3.3 Universal supplies are labeled in English

3.4 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.”
4. NEW CLIENT PREPARATION AND HAIR REMOVAL OF THE EYEBROW USING SIMULATED SOFT WAX AND TWEEZING
(5 minute set up, Untimed procedure)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You have 5 minutes to prepare your CLIENT for the following sections of the examination:

Hair Removal of the Eyebrow using Simulated Soft Wax and Tweezing,
Facial Makeup.”
“Please do not begin 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.”

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.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You will perform hair removal of the eyebrow using simulated soft wax and tweezing.”
“You will select one eyebrow to demonstrate a simulated soft wax and tweezing procedure.”
“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 soft wax and tweezing procedures.”
“This is an untimed section.”
“Do not begin to demonstrate the soft wax and tweezing procedures. You will be instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”

(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

4.1 Hair removal of the eyebrow supplies are labeled in English
4.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:
“Please demonstrate hair removal using simulated soft wax along entire length of one eyebrow.”
4.3 Demonstrates simulated soft wax procedure along entire length of eyebrow

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually:
“Please tweeze three hairs from the same eyebrow and conclude the service.”

4.4 Demonstrates tweezing procedure
4.5 Maintains drape throughout section
4.6 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

Examiner – Verbal Instructions: Read to each candidate individually after hair removal of the eyebrow using soft wax and tweezing has been examined:
“Please step back and do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates once examiners have completed assessment for this section:
“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”
5. FACIAL MAKEUP

(20 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You will perform Facial Makeup.”
“You will be expected to apply facial makeup in the following order: foundation, powder, blush, eyeshadow, eyeliner, mascara, and lip color.”
“You are expected to brace when working around the eye and mouth areas.”
“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.”

Additional verbal instruction specific to state guidelines for Hard Wax:
“Please check the temperature of your wax pot at this time.” (if additional Hard Wax section is administered)

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

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

5.1 Facial makeup supplies are labeled in English
5.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
5.3 Applies foundation to cover face
5.4 Applies powder
5.5 Applies blush
5.6 Applies eyeshadow
5.7 Applies eyeliner
5.8 Applies mascara
5.9 Applies lip color
5.10 Maintains drape throughout section
5.11 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.”
6. 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, your client has sustained a minor cut to the chin. The injury is such that you can continue with the service. You have not come in contact with the blood and your work area has not been contaminated. You are expected to demonstrate the proper procedure for a blood exposure.”

“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:

6.1 Blood exposure supplies and materials are labeled in English
6.2 Removes materials from the first aid kit
6.3 Supplies and materials are visibly clean
6.4 Candidate wears gloves
6.5 Cleans injured area with antiseptic
6.6 Covers with dressing that is absorbent and secured
6.7 Disposes of all contaminated supplies

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. 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.”
SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

Suggested supply list:
- This is ONLY 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 simulated products 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)
- hand sanitizer and manufacturer’s label (must be actual hand sanitizer)
- bag or container labeled “to be disinfected”
- bag or container labeled “soiled linens”
- bag or container labeled “trash”
- head and body drapes
- gloves
- bowl or container of water (if used)
- paper towels
- tissues, gauze pad, cotton rounds, sponges
- applicators, spatula(s)
- first aid kit
- disposable bag for blood contaminated materials

CLIENT 1
- cleanser
- toner
- manual exfoliation product
- implement or material to exfoliate
- wet steam towel(s)
- massage product
- mask product with color (not clear)
- mask applicator
- moisturizer/sun protection

CLIENT 2
- tweezers
- pre-epilation product
- wax applicator(s)
- wax strip(s)
- simulated soft wax
- post-epilation product
- empty makeup palette
- disposable makeup applicator(s)
- foundation
- powder
- blush
- eye shadow
- eyeliner
- sharpener
- mascara
- lip color
7. PARTICLE MICRODERMABRASION ON THE FOREHEAD
(10 minutes)

**ADDITIONAL SECTION (Performed on Client 2)**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:
“*You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Particle Microdermabrasion section of this examination.*”
“Please do not begin 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.*”

**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.*”

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:
“You will perform particle microdermabrasion.”
“You will demonstrate horizontal strokes across the entire forehead.”
“You will then demonstrate vertical strokes across the entire forehead and conclude the service.”
“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 that you have finished.”

(1) “*The instructions will be repeated.*”
(2) “*You may begin.*”
Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- **7.1** Particle microdermabrasion supplies are labeled in English
- **7.2** Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- **7.3** Prepares client and candidate for particle microdermabrasion procedure
- **7.4** Performs particle microdermabrasion procedure
- **7.5** Concludes particle microdermabrasion procedure
- **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 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.”

**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

**PARTICLE MICRODERMABRASION SUPPLIES**
- hand piece or simulated hand piece with at least a 4-foot tubing or simulated tubing attached
- bowl and water (if used)
- gloves, tissue, gauze, or cotton rounds, sponges
- eye protection (for model)
- eye protection (for candidate) (prescription eyeglasses are suitable)
- face mask (for candidate)
- moisturizer/sun protection
- simulated degreaser/prep solution
- dry material for brushing
8. EYELASH ENHANCEMENT
(10 minutes)

+ADDITIONAL SECTION (Performed on Client 2)+

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Eyelash Enhancement section of this examination.”
“Please do not begin 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.”

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.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You will apply eyelash enhancement.”
“You will add a complete eyelash band to the full length of the lash line of both eyes.”
“You are expected to brace when working around the eyes.”
“You are expected to perform a patch test.”
“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 Eyelash enhancement supplies are labeled in English
8.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
8.3 Performs patch test
8.4 Prepares client and eyelash band for enhancement
8.5 Performs eyelash application procedure
8.6 Final appearance of eyelash application on both eyes
8.7 Maintains drape throughout section
8.8 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.”

**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

**EYELASH ENHANCEMENT SUPPLIES**
- head band/drape
- cotton/cotton rounds
- cleanser
- lash brush
- eyelash bands (must be a length longer than natural lash line)
- eyelash adhesive
- tweezers
- scissors
- spatulas
9. HAIR REMOVAL OF THE UPPER LIP USING HARD WAX
(10 minutes)

 ADDITIONAL SECTION (Performed on Client 2)+

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 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.”

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.”

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:
“You will perform hair removal on the upper lip.”
“You will demonstrate the procedure on the entire upper lip using hard wax.”
“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:

9.1 Hair removal on the upper lip supplies are labeled in English
9.2 Equipment, implements, and supplies are visibly clean
9.3 Demonstrates hard wax application procedure on entire upper lip
9.4 Demonstrates hard wax removal procedure on entire upper lip
9.5 Conclusion of hair removal procedure on upper lip
9.6 Maintains drape throughout section
9.7 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 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.”

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**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 ON UPPER LIP USING HARD WAX SUPPLIES +**

- hard wax
- wax heater (MUST be actual hard wax, and only the approximate amount needed to wax the upper lip)
- wax applicators
- gloves
- pre-epilation product
- tissue, gauze, or cotton rounds
- disposable applicator
- post-epilation product