



NATIONAL BARBER STYLING  
THEORY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)

**EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**

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

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The National Barber Styling Theory Examination is the licensure examination for Barber Stylists, 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 Barber Styling 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**

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- 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.
- 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, 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.*

## BARBER STYLING THEORY EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

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The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Barber Styling 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.

### 1. Scientific Concepts - 35%

- A. Infection Control and Safety Practices
  - 1. Identify how disease and infection are caused and transmitted
  - 2. Apply principles of infection control
    - a. Sanitation/Cleansing
    - b. Disinfection
    - c. Sterilization
    - d. Contamination and cross-contamination
  - 3. Apply blood exposure procedures
  - 4. Identify requirements of government agencies related to public protection (e.g., CDC, OSHA, EPA)
- B. Human anatomy and physiology
  - 1. Identify function and structure of the
    - a. Hair and scalp
    - b. Skin
  - 2. Identify bones related to
    - a. Head and face
    - b. Neck, shoulders, and upper back
  - 3. Identify muscles and joints and their functions related to
    - a. Head and face
    - b. Neck, shoulders, and upper back
  - 4. Understand the functions of body systems
    - a. Nervous system
    - b. Circulatory system
    - c. Endocrine system
    - d. Integumentary system
- C. Identify signs and symptoms of conditions, disorders, and diseases related to skin
  - 1. Types
  - 2. Treatments
- D. Identify signs and symptoms of conditions, disorders, and diseases related to hair
  - 1. Types
  - 2. Treatments
- E. Basic chemistry of products used in barbering
  - 1. Understand the chemical pH scale
  - 2. Understand purpose and effects of products, ingredients, and their interactions
  - 3. Understand interactions among chemicals
  - 4. Understand chemical reactions (e.g., overexposure, chemical burn, inhalation)

### 2. Implements and Equipment - 10%

- A. Identify function, purpose, and care of tools used in hair services
  - 1. Equipment (e.g., chair, workstation)
  - 2. Implements (e.g., razors, shears, combs/brushes)
  - 3. Supplies and materials (e.g., towels, drape, neck strips)
  - 4. Electrical tools (e.g., clippers, blow dryers)
- B. Understand and apply safety and sanitation practices for use of implements and equipment

**3. Hair Care Services - 40%**

- A. Client consultation, analysis, and documentation for hair care services
  - 1. Analyze condition of client's hair and scalp (i.e., assessment)
  - 2. Recognize conditions that would prohibit service (i.e., contraindications)
  - 3. Determine services and/or products
  - 4. Document and maintain client records (e.g., consultation card, service history, medical history)
- B. Hair Care
  - 1. Apply knowledge of draping (e.g., chemical, shampoo, haircutting)
  - 2. Apply knowledge of principles and procedures for shampooing and conditioning
  - 3. Apply knowledge of principles and procedures for scalp treatments and scalp massage/manipulation
- C. Hair Design
  - 1. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures, and safety of haircutting
    - a. Shaping
    - b. Outlining
    - c. Neck shave
  - 2. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures, and safety of hair styling
    - a. Wet styling
    - b. Blow-dry styling
    - c. Thermal styling
    - d. Natural hair styling (e.g., braiding, locks)
  - 3. Apply knowledge of hair enhancement options
- D. Apply knowledge of preparation, procedures, and safety for head shaving
- E. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures, and safety for chemical services
  - 1. Understand preliminary tests (e.g., purposes, uses, applications):
    - a. Predisposition
    - b. Strand test
  - 2. Hair coloring (including facial hair)
  - 3. Hair lightening
  - 4. Foiling
  - 5. Chemical hair relaxing/restructuring and curl reduction
    - a. Hydroxide
    - b. Thio
    - c. Keratin
  - 6. Chemical waving/texturizing:
    - a. Alkaline
    - b. Acid
    - c. Non-thio

**4. Facial Hair and Skin Care Services - 15%**

- A. Client consultation, analysis, and documentation for facial hair and skin care services
  - 1. Evaluate client's skin (e.g., type, condition)
  - 2. Identify contraindications:
    - a. Disorders
    - b. Diseases
  - 3. Determine services and/or products
  - 4. Document and maintain client records (e.g., consultation card, service history, medical history)
- B. Apply knowledge of draping for facial hair and skin care services
- C. Apply knowledge of principles, procedures, and safety for facial hair and skin care services
  - 1. Complete shave service with required strokes
  - 2. Facial hair design
  - 3. Facial (e.g., cleansing, steam towel, massage)
  - 4. Electrotherapy and light therapy
- D. Apply knowledge of purpose and types of electrotherapy and light therapy

## BARBER STYLING THEORY EXAMINATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Barber Styling 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. Anthrax and tetanus bacilli form which type of spores?
  - a. Mitosis
  - b. Flagella
  - c. Spherical
  - d. Infectious
2. All French style shears
  - a. are cobalt metal.
  - b. have a finger brace.
  - c. are made in France.
  - d. have tight pivots.
3. Prior to a shaving service the headrest **MUST** be
  - a. washed and dried.
  - b. disinfected and covered.
  - c. washed and removed.
  - d. sanitized and sterilized.
4. To avoid damage to muscle tissue, the movements of a massage are directed
  - a. away from the origin of the muscle.
  - b. toward the origin of the muscle.
  - c. around the origin of the muscle.
  - d. above the origin of the muscle.
5. Which of the following can permanently relieve split ends?
  - a. Applying oil to the ends
  - b. Using a styling gel on the ends
  - c. Moistening the ends
  - d. Cutting the ends
6. The diameter of a single strand of hair is also called
  - a. growth pattern.
  - b. porosity.
  - c. density.
  - d. texture.
7. What should be performed **FIRST** before applying permanent haircolor?
  - a. Strand test
  - b. Patch test
  - c. Curl test
  - d. Texture test
8. Before sodium hydroxide processing, hair should be analyzed to determine its
  - a. acidity.
  - b. alkalinity.
  - c. texture, porosity, and elasticity.
  - d. density, color, and end bonds.

### Answers

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. b | 7. b |
| 2. b | 5. d | 8. c |
| 3. b | 6. d |      |



**NATIONAL BARBER STYLING**  
**PRACTICAL EXAMINATION**

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)**

**EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS**

*Please visit your official examination provider website OR [www.nictesting.org](http://www.nictesting.org), for the most current bulletin prior to testing.*

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

**This bulletin contains IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the  
NIC National Barber Styling Practical Examination content and administration for  
Barber Styling 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 provides 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 provides 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**

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- 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 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.
- 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 or an emergency situation, the proctors and/or examiners 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](http://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, 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.
  - An EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal properties must be used. 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** are allowed in the testing environment
  - Candidates are to perform all tasks, utilizing products and supplies, as they were taught. There is however, a section titled “Suggested Examination Supplies” provided for each section of the

examination. Suggested Supplies can be found after the “Content Domains” section of this bulletin.

### **NIC MODEL OR MANNEQUIN REQUIREMENTS**

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**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.
- Mannequin hands must be an entire hand and cannot have removable digits.
- Mannequin heads and/or 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 Barber Styling Practical Examination:

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- 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 Barber Styling Practical Examination Content Domains Sections).
- The following sections are new to the Barber Styling Practical Examination:
  - Blood Exposure Procedure (Content Domain Section 5)
  - Predisposition Test and Strand Test with Simulated Product (Content Domain Section 7)
- **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.
- Clippers **MUST** have a cord, or a cord simulated.
- A straight razor **MUST** be used.
- Check your state examination regulations for razor blade and live model and/or mannequin requirements.

## **BARBER STYLING PRACTICAL EXAMINATION CONTENT DOMAIN SECTIONS**

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The scope of the National Barber Styling Practical Examination includes 9 (nine) 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, 10 minutes)
2. **Haircutting** (40 minutes)
3. **Work Area and New Client Preparation, and Set Up of Supplies** (Second client, 15 minutes)
4. **Shaving with Straight Razor** (Variable Timing)
5. **Blood Exposure Procedure** (10 minutes)
6. **Chemical Waving** (20 minutes)
7. **Predisposition Test and Strand Test with Simulated Product** (10 minutes)
8. **Chemical Relaxer – Virgin Application** (15 minutes)
9. **Hair Color – Retouch Application** (15 minutes)



## **CONTENT DOMAINS**

### **1. WORK AREA AND CLIENT 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 Haircutting section of the examination.”*

*“You will prepare your client for services.”*

*“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, 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. HAIRCUTTING (40 minutes)

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

- “You will perform a tapered Haircut with no blocked line at the nape.”*
- “You will demonstrate clipper cutting with and without guard or detachable blade.”*
- “You will demonstrate use of shear over comb.”*
- “You will demonstrate fingers and shear cutting.”*
- “You will cut at least ½ inch of hair throughout the haircut.”*
- “You will be expected to complete and blend the haircut.”*
- “You will also be expected to shave both sides of the neck with a straight razor.”*
- “Do not remove your hair clippings from your work area until you are instructed individually, by the examiner, to do so.”*
- “You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*
- “You will have 40 minutes to complete this section.”*
- “You will be informed when you have 20 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 Haircutting supplies are labeled in English**
- 2.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean**
- 2.3 Performs scalp analysis**
- 2.4 Demonstrates safe use of clippers and comb without guard or detachable blade**
- 2.5 Demonstrates safe use of clippers with guard or detachable blade**
- 2.6 Demonstrates safe use of comb and shears**
- 2.7 Establishes outline around ears**
- 2.8 Shaves sides of the neck using straight razor to include reverse backhand stroke**

**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?”*

- 2.9 Hair in front of ear is uniform in length (sideburns)**
- 2.10 Haircut blended without weight line**
- 2.11 At least ½ inch of hair is cut throughout**

**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.”*

**2.12 Removes hair from work area**

**2.13 Maintains drape throughout section**

**2.14 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.”*

### 3. 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 Shaving with a Straight Razor section of the examination.”*

*“You will prepare your client for a shave.”*

*“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:**

- 3.1 Disinfects all work areas completely with product labeled in English as EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant
- 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 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. SHAVING WITH A STRAIGHT RAZOR (Variable Timing)

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

*“You will prepare to perform shaving with a straight razor.”*

*“You will prepare the model’s face by lathering and steaming.”*

*“Do not remove the steam towel until instructed to do so by the examiner.”*

*“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.”*

*“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 Shaving supplies are labeled in English**

**4.2 Sets up implements that are visibly clean**

**4.3 Lathers beard and mustache area**

**4.4 Steam towel is applied**

**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.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates after all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed their preparation:

*“You will perform Shaving with a Straight Razor.”*

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

*“You will be instructed individually by the examiner when to remove the towel, re-lather, and begin the shave.”*

*“This is an untimed section.”*

*“Do not remove the steam towel or demonstrate any strokes until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”*

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

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually:

*“Please remove the steam towel, re-lather, and demonstrate the first 5 shaving strokes.”*

**4.5 Removes steam towel and lather**

**4.6 Re-lathers beard and mustache**

**4.7 Demonstrates freehand stroke in areas 1, 3, and 4 safely**

- 4.8 Demonstrates backhand stroke in area 2
- 4.9 Demonstrates reverse freehand stroke in area 5

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually after the shaving with a straight razor has been examined:

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

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates after demonstrated strokes are evaluated:

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

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

*“Do not demonstrate any additional shaving strokes.”*

*“You will perform the finishing steps of the service.”*

*“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.”*

- 4.10 Completes the shaving service
- 4.11 Maintains drape throughout section
- 4.12 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. 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 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:**

- 5.1 Blood exposure supplies are labeled in English**
- 5.2 Removes materials from first aid kit**
- 5.3 Supplies and materials are visibly clean**
- 5.4 Cleans injured area with antiseptic**
- 5.5 Covers with dressing that is absorbent and secured**
- 5.6 Candidate wears glove or finger guard**
- 5.7 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.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read when all examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed:

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

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

*Chemical Waving*

*Predisposition and Strand test*

*Chemical Relaxer – Virgin Application*

*Hair Color – Retouch Application*

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

*“You will have 10 minutes to complete your set up.”*

*“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.”*

**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. CHEMICAL WAVING (20 minutes)

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

*“You will perform Chemical Waving.”*

*“You will prepare your client for services.”*

*“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:**

- 6.1 Chemical waving supplies are labeled in English
- 6.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 6.3 Performs scalp analysis
- 6.4 Subsections hair for chemical waving
- 6.5 Wraps hair
- 6.6 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 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:

*“Please demonstrate saturation”*

- 6.7 Demonstrates saturation

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually:

*“Please demonstrate a test curl.”*

- 6.8 Demonstrates a test curl

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually:

*“Please remove one rod from the hair.”*

**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.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:  
*“You will remove all remaining rods from the head and create 4 quadrants/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.”*

**6.9 Maintains drape throughout section**

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

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

*“You will complete a simulated Predisposition Test and Strand Test.”*

*“You will demonstrate the predisposition test behind the ear.”*

*“You will demonstrate the strand test on any area of the head.”*

*“There is no required wait time for results.”*

*“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:**

- 7.1 Predisposition test and strand test supplies are labeled in English**
- 7.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean**
- 7.3 Demonstrates predisposition test behind the ear**
- 7.4 Demonstrates strand test**
- 7.5 Maintains drape throughout section**
- 7.6 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.”*

## 8. CHEMICAL RELAXER - VIRGIN APPLICATION (15 Minutes)

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

*“You will perform a Chemical Hair Relaxer - Virgin Application.”*

*“You will apply simulated relaxer product on one back quadrant/section of hair.”*

*“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:**

- 8.1 Virgin hair relaxer supplies are labeled in English
- 8.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 8.3 Subsections hair for relaxer application
- 8.4 Applies simulated relaxer product
- 8.5 Maintains drape throughout section
- 8.6 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.”*

## 9. HAIR COLOR - RETOUCH APPLICATION (15 minutes)

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

*“You will perform a Hair Color Retouch Application.”*

*“You will apply simulated product to the other back quadrant/section of hair.”*

*“The client has 1 inch of regrowth.”*

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

*“You 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:**

- 9.1 Hair color retouch supplies are labeled in English
- 9.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 9.3 Subsections hair for hair color retouch
- 9.4 Applies simulated hair color product
- 9.5 Final result of hair color retouch application
- 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 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 Barbering Practical Examination.”*

*“Thank you for your participation.”*

## ***SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES***

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### **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)
- hospital grade (level), EPA-registered disinfectant with manufacturer's label that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used (must be actual disinfectant)
- hand sanitizer and manufacturer's label (must be actual hand sanitizer)
- container labeled "items to be disinfected" (recommended: free-standing paper sack with plastic liner)
- container labeled "soiled linens" (recommended: free-standing paper sack with plastic liner)
- container labeled "trash" (recommended: free-standing paper sack with plastic liner)
- 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 (recommended: child size capes)
- neck strip(s)
- cloth towels
- hair clip(s) and/or clamp(s)
- comb(s)
- hair brush(es)
- shaving cream (non-aerosol)
- spray bottle with water
- spatula(s)
- gloves

### **HAIRCUTTING SUPPLIES**

- protective capes (recommended: child size capes)
- shears
- clippers (clippers MUST have actual electrical cord)
- guards/detachable blades
- straight razor(s)
- shaving cream (non-aerosol)

### **SHAVING SUPPLIES**

- protective capes (recommended: child size capes)
- straight razor(s)
- shaving cream (non-aerosol)
- steam towel
- toner, talc, or moisturizer

### **BLOOD EXPOSURE PROCEDURE SUPPLIES**

- additional bag for disposal of blood-contaminated materials

### **CHEMICAL WAVING SUPPLIES**

- protective capes (recommended: child size capes)
- chemical wave rods
- cotton
- protective cream
- end papers
- simulated waving lotion (water)

### **PREDISPOSITION TEST AND STRAND TEST SUPPLIES**

- skin cleanser
- applicator brush
- bowl or bottle applicator with colored simulated product

### **CHEMICAL RELAXER SUPPLIES**

- protective capes (recommended: child size capes)
- protective cream
- applicator brush
- bowl or bottle applicator with colored simulated product

### **HAIR COLOR SUPPLIES**

- protective capes (recommended: child size capes)
- protective cream
- applicator brush
- bowl or bottle applicator with colored simulated product