



NATIONAL BARBER STYLING PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

Please visit www.nictesting.org for the most current bulletin prior to testing.

This bulletin contains important information regarding the NIC National Barber Styling Practical Examination content and administration. 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.
- Candidates are required to bring their own kit with sufficient quantity of supplies in sanitary condition. This includes the required implements in proper working order and protective drapes. The kit must be kept closed except when removing or replacing materials for a particular service. The kit will be used during the examination as dry storage and is considered part of the work area.
- All examinations are administered in a testing environment. Candidates should bring a container of water if needed for any section of the examination. Candidates may bring a thermos of hot water if desired. All water and their containers must be taken with the candidates and may not be disposed of at the testing facility.
- Candidates are evaluated at all times. Continue demonstrating until you have completed the entire section.
- Candidates will be given 10 minutes for client protection and to set up the general supplies that they will use throughout the examination. Candidates will also set up the supplies for the shaving section of this examination.
- Candidates will also be given 2 minutes to set up the supplies for each section of the examination.
- The verbal instructions will be read twice for each section of the examination. Each examination section has a maximum time allowance. Once you have completed all tasks in the section please step back to indicate that you are finished. In the event that all candidates complete the section before the time has elapsed the examiners will proceed to the next section of the examination.
- Candidates must follow all appropriate public protection and infection control procedures during all phases of the practical examination that will ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public. In the event of a blood spill candidates will be expected to follow the NIC Health and Safety Standards. Failure to do so may result in your dismissal from the examination.
- Cellular phones, pagers, any electronic device, printed materials, and handwritten notes are NOT permitted in the examination room. Talking to other candidates or any examiner is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply with any of these conditions will result in you being dismissed immediately, and your actions reported to the proper authorities. Your examiner has been instructed not to answer any questions concerning your examination. This ensures equal opportunity for all candidates and standardization in testing for the National Practical Examination. If you have an emergency situation please ask to speak with the supervisor.

- Chemicals for Chemical Waving, Hair Lightening, Hair Coloring, and Chemical Relaxing will be simulated.
- Manufacturer's labels are required on all disinfectants and sanitizers. An EPA registered disinfectant that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used. Simulated products are NOT allowed for disinfectants and hand sanitizers.

MODEL OR MANNEQUIN(S)

Depending on the state, candidates will either use a live model or mannequin head(s) for the examination.

*** Please refer to State guidelines.**

***If your state permits a live model:**

Models must be at least 15 years of age and cannot be licensed or a student studying in this field. Models must be present with the candidate at the beginning of the practical examination. The model must present a valid driver's license or State ID card for admittance to the examination. The model must be appropriate for examination purposes. The model must agree to submit to all services in the practical examination. Models may not participate in any way during the examination. Models are not permitted to talk to the candidate or examiners at any time during the examination.

***If your state permits a mannequin head(s):**

If you are required to bring a mannequin head(s), it is the candidate's responsibility to appear at the practical examination with their mannequin head(s).

Mannequin heads that have been purchased presectioned indicating the sections by various colors and/or notches are NOT allowed during any part of the practical examination.

**BARBER STYLING PRACTICAL
EXAMINATION CONTENT SECTIONS**

The scope of the National Barber Stylist Practical Examination includes 6 core domain services. The core domain services are based on the national job analysis. The core domain services are as follows:

Core Domain Services

- Set Up and Client Protection
- Shaving with a Straight Razor
- Haircutting
- Chemical Waving
- Hair Lightening/Coloring
- Chemical Relaxing

Every State Regulatory Entity has different testing needs and may elect one or more of the following services. Please contact your State Regulatory Entity to obtain a list of services that constitute the practical examination administered in your state. The optional services are as follows and are denoted with an *:

Optional Services

- *Basic Facial
- *Blow Drying
- *Thermal Curling

CORE DOMAIN SERVICES

SET UP AND CLIENT PROTECTION

(10 minutes)

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now set up the general supplies that you will use throughout your examination.”

“You will also set up the shaving supplies.”

“You will be observed for 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.”

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

(2) *“You may begin set up.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- Disinfects work area
- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Sanitizes hands
- Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Uses neck strip or towel and drape
- Re-sanitizes hands

SHAVING WITH A STRAIGHT RAZOR

(20 minutes)

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the shaving with a straight razor section of this examination.”

“You will be observed for 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.”

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Sanitizes hands to include wrist
- Applies drape across front of model covering shoulders but not touching neck skin
- Applies towel securely by tucking into neckband
- Places residue towel across chest/shoulder area

Demonstration of Shaving with a Straight Razor

- Lathers beard and mustache area using a circular motion with cushions of fingers evenly and safely
- Wrings wet steam towel thoroughly
- Tests temperature of wet steam towel on inside of wrist
- Applies steam towel around face folding ends over forehead and leaving nostrils exposed
- Removes steam towel and lather together in a continuous fluid motion
- Re-lathers beard and mustache area using a circular motion with cushions of fingers safely
- Keeps stretching hand dry and lather-free to prevent slipping
- Strokes straight razor at an angle with grain of beard
- Holds straight razor in correct freehand position with palm facing toward model/mannequin safely
- Uses freehand stroke in appropriate areas
- Holds straight razor in correct backhand position with palm facing away from model/mannequin safely
- Uses backhand stroke in appropriate areas
- Holds straight razor in correct reverse freehand position with palm facing toward model/mannequin safely
- Uses reverse freehand stroke in area 14 safely
- Performs shaving stroke(s) with leading point of straight razor safely
- Applies steam towel to remove all residue safely
- Applies toner or astringent safely

Safety and Infection Control

- Maintains towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

*** BASIC FACIAL (OPTIONAL SERVICE)**
(10 minutes)

* Please refer to State guidelines.

*Basic Facial is an optional service for states that elect to test this service.

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

“You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the basic facial section of this examination”. “Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up.”

Verbal Instructions:

*“You will now perform the basic facial section of this examination.”
“You will be observed for 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.”

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- Sanitizes hands
- Applies hair drape to secure hair away from face
- Re-sanitizes hands to include wrist

Demonstration of Facial

- Cleanses entire face safely
- Wrings wet steam towel thoroughly
- Tests temperature of wet steam towel on inside of wrist
- Removes all cleanser using steam towel safely
- Distributes massage product over entire face safely
- Demonstrates massage maintaining continuous contact
- Removes all residual massage product using steam towel safely
- Applies toner or astringent safely

Safety and Infection Control

- Removes all product from container using infection control procedures
- Maintains towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

HAIRCUTTING
(30 minutes)

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

“You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the haircutting section of this examination. “Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up.”

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the haircutting section of this examination.”

“You will complete a tapered haircut using clippers and shears.”

“You will use your clippers to cut the back and sides of the head.”

“You will be expected to demonstrate clipper over comb.”

“Clipper guards or attachments may not be used.”

“You will complete the haircut using shears.”

“Please do not sweep the hair from the floor until you are instructed.”

“You will be observed for client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

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

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

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Uses a neck strip or towel and drape

Demonstration of Haircutting

- Uses clippers to establish graduated haircut with no blocked line (taper/fade)
- Handles clippers safely at all times
- Demonstrates use of shears on top of head
- Handles shears safely at all times
- Blends haircut evenly with clippers or shears without leaving weight line
- Cut sides in front of ear uniform in length with clippers
- Establishes outline around ears and sides of neck that follows natural hairline
- Cuts at least ¼ inch of hair throughout haircut

Safety and Infection Control

- Removes hair clippings from skin, drape, and work area
- Sweeps hair from floor
- Maintains neck strip or towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Disposes of soiled materials using infection control procedures
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

Examiners will read the following to each candidate after candidate has stepped back to indicate that they have completed their haircut or the timing has elapsed:

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

Examiners will read the following to each candidate after checking their haircut:

“You may clean up only your hair at this time.”

CHEMICAL WAVING
(20 minutes)

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

"You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the chemical waving section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up."

Verbal Instructions:

"You will now perform the chemical waving section of this examination."

"You will wrap the center back section of the head, from crown to nape."

"You will be instructed to apply simulated waving lotion."

"You will be instructed to demonstrate a test curl."

"You will be observed for 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."

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

(2) *"You may begin."*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English

Demonstration of Chemical Waving

- Subsections hair straight and evenly
- Subsections hair no longer than length of rod
- Subsections hair same width as rod
- Wraps hair evenly and smoothly around rod
- Distributes hair evenly across end paper
- Extends end papers beyond hair ends
- Places bands correctly
- Uses same rod base placement throughout section
- Wraps hair around rod at least 1 ½ times

Examiners will read the following to each candidate:

"Please demonstrate saturation."

- Applies cotton and/or protective cream at nape
- Wears gloves during application of simulated product
- Applies simulated product across entire rod safely

Examiners will read the following to each candidate:

"Please demonstrate a test curl."

- Unwraps rod at least 1 ½ turns and hair is held to relax to demonstrate test procedure

Safety and Infection Control

- Maintains neck strip or towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

Examiners will read the following to the entire group of candidates when the timer goes off:

"Please stop the chemical waving procedure. Do not remove the rods until the examiner instructs you to remove them."

Examiners will read the following to the entire group of candidates after examiners have finished checking all candidates:

"Please remove all rods from the head and brush the hair straight back."

HAIR LIGHTENING/COLORING
(20 minutes)

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

"You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the hair lightening and hair coloring section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up."

Verbal Instructions:

"You will now perform the hair lightening and hair coloring section of this examination."

"You will divide the head into four sections."

"You will apply a virgin lightener to the right front section of the head."

"You will apply a 2 inch hair coloring retouch to the right back section of the head."

"You will be observed for 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."

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

(2) *"You may begin."*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- Divides head into four equal sections
- Applies protective cream around hairline
- Wears gloves during application of simulated lightener and hair color products

Demonstration of Virgin Hair Lightening Application

- Subsections hair 1/8 inch wide or less
- Applies simulated product ½ inch from scalp
- Applies simulated product up to but not including last 1 inch of hair
- Completely covers subsections with simulated product

Demonstration of Retouch Hair Coloring Application

- Outlines hair color retouch quadrant with simulated product
- Subsections hair 1/2 inch wide or less
- Applies simulated product from scalp up to 2 inches
- Completely covers subsections with simulated product

Safety and Infection Control

- Keeps skin free of product
- Maintains neck strip or towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

CHEMICAL RELAXING
(25 minutes)

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

“You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the chemical relaxing section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up.”

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the chemical relaxing section of this examination.”

“You will apply a virgin relaxer application to the left back section of the head.”

“You will apply a 2 inch relaxer retouch application to the left front section of the head.”

“You will be observed for client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”

“You will have 25 minutes to complete this section.”

“You will be informed when you have 13 minutes remaining.”

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- Applies protective cream around hairline

Demonstration of Virgin Relaxer Application

- Wears gloves during application of simulated relaxer product
- Subsections hair 1/4 inch wide or less
- Applies simulated product 1/2 inch from scalp
- Applies simulated product up to but not including last 1 inch of hair
- Completely covers subsections with simulated product

Demonstration of Relaxer Retouch Application

Examiners will read the following to each candidate:

“Please demonstrate smoothing the relaxer retouch product.”

- Outlines relaxer retouch quadrant with simulated product
- Subsections hair 1/4 inch wide or less
- Applies simulated product starting slightly off scalp, up to 1/4 inch from scalp, and out to 2 inches
- Completely covers subsections with simulated product
- Demonstrates smoothing of subsection in direction of hair growth and cuticle with moderate tension

Safety and Infection Control

- Keeps skin free of product
- Maintains neck strip or towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

*** BLOW DRY STYLING (OPTIONAL SERVICE)**
(15 minutes)

*** Please refer to State guidelines.**

*** Blow Dry Styling is an optional service that is examined after Haircutting for states that elect to test this service.**

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

“You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the blow dry styling section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up.”

Verbal Instructions:

“You will now perform the blow dry styling section of this examination.”

“You will be observed for 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.”

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

(2) *“You may begin.”*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Sanitizes hands
- Uses neck strip or towel and drape properly

Demonstration of Blow Drying

- Dries hair from scalp to ends to create volume
- Directs air flow to protect scalp
- Controls hair with a brush
- Demonstrates drying of hair on top and one side of head

Safety and Infection Control

- Maintains neck strip or towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

***THERMAL CURLING (OPTIONAL SERVICE)**
(10 minutes)

* Please refer to State guidelines.

* Thermal Curling is an optional service for states that elect to test this section.

Verbal Instructions for Set Up:

"You have 2 minutes to remove the supplies from your kit for the thermal curling section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin. You may begin set up."

Verbal Instructions:

"You will now perform the thermal curling section of this examination."

"You will form three curls on the top of the head and four curls on one side of the head."

"You will be observed for 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."

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

(2) *"You may begin."*

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

Preparation

- Sets up implements that are visibly clean and sanitary
- Tests temperature of iron prior to applying to hair

Demonstration of Thermal Curling

- Subsections hair same width as barrel of iron
- Subsections hair no longer than 3 inches
- Establishes a base
- Distributes hair evenly around iron
- Forms a complete curl
- Protects scalp from iron with comb
- Forms curl so that the hair is smooth and unmarked

Safety and Infection Control

- Uses iron safely at all times
- Maintains neck strip or towel and drape for protection throughout service
- Practices infection control procedures safely throughout service
- Maintains work area in a safe manner throughout service

**CANDIDATE SUMMARY
AND FINAL CLEANUP**

Verbal Instructions:

"This concludes the national practical examination. Please make sure that all kit supplies and disposable materials are taken with you. Please do not dispose of waste materials, chemicals, or water in the trash receptacles or restrooms as they are unable to accommodate all waste materials from every candidate that takes the examination."

RECOMMENDED GENERAL SUPPLIES

ALL SUPPLIES MUST BE LABELED IN ENGLISH

* Please refer to State guidelines

- dry storage kit/container*
- hand sanitizer
- mannequin head(s) and a table clamp* (pre-marked mannequin head(s) are NOT permitted)
- a towel to place between the clamp and the table*
- EPA registered disinfectant that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used.
- astringent
- toner
- disposal bag for waste materials
- cloth and paper towel(s)
- neck strip(s)
- shampoo cape (child size is appropriate for mannequin)
- hair clamp(s)
- comb(s)
- hair brush(es)
- spray bottle
- protective cream
- spatula(s)
- protective cotton
- protective gloves
- tape
- first aid supplies (blood spill kit)

SHAVING SUPPLIES

- shaving cream
- razor
- towel

FACIAL SUPPLIES

- hair drape
- cleansing cream
- massage cream
- toner or astringent

HAIRCUTTING SUPPLIES

- haircutting shears
- clippers
- comb(s)

CHEMICAL WAVING SUPPLIES

- chemical wave rods
- end papers
- applicator bottle with simulated waving lotion (water)
- comb(s)

**HAIR LIGHTENING AND HAIR COLORING
SUPPLIES**

* Please refer to State guidelines

- tint brush and bowl or bottle applicator
- thick gel or colored cholesterol*
- comb(s)
- hair clips

CHEMICAL RELAXING SUPPLIES

* Please refer to State guidelines

- tint brush and bowl or bottle applicator
- thick gel or colored cholesterol*
- comb(s)

***BLOW DRY STYLING SUPPLIES
(OPTIONAL SERVICE)**

* Please refer to State guidelines

- blow dryer
- hair brush(es)

***THERMAL CURLING SUPPLIES
(OPTIONAL SERVICE)**

* Please refer to State guidelines

- thermal curling iron
- comb(s)
- material for testing temperature of iron

BARBER REFERENCES

Milady's Standard Textbook of Professional Barbering, 2006
Milady
5 Maxwell Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(800) 347-7707
www.Milady.com

Milady's Standard Textbook of Professional Barber-Styling Rev. Ed.,
1999
Milady
5 Maxwell Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(800) 347-7707
www.Milady.com

NIC Health and Safety Standards
NIC, Inc., October 2002
www.nictesting.org

NIC HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS BLOOD SPILL PROCEDURE

If a blood spill should occur, the following steps **MUST** be followed:

- **SUPPLY INJURED PARTY WITH LIQUID STYPTIC/ANTISEPTIC AND THE APPROPRIATE DRESSING TO COVER THE INJURY.**
- **DOUBLE BAG ALL BLOOD-SOILED (CONTAMINATED) ARTICLES AND LABEL WITH RED OR ORANGE BIOHAZARD WARNING.** This is the responsibility of the candidate and should be executed as follows:

CANDIDATE INJURY – FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSES

1. **PROTECTION** – If a cut is sustained, stop the service and clean the injured area.
2. **APPLY** antiseptic and/or liquid or spray styptic as appropriate (see NOTE).
3. **DRESSING** - cover the injury with the appropriate dressing.
4. **COVER** injured area with finger guard or glove as appropriate.
5. **CLEAN** model/client and station as appropriate.
6. **DOUBLE BAG** and dispose of all contaminated objects. Clean hands with antimicrobial cleanser.
7. **RETURN** to service.

MODEL INJURY – FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSES

1. **STOP** service.
2. **GLOVE** hands of candidate/student/licensee.
3. **CLEAN** injured area as appropriate.
4. **APPLY** antiseptic and/or liquid or spray styptic as appropriate (see NOTE).
5. **COVER** the injury with the appropriate dressing to prevent further blood exposure.
6. **DOUBLE BAG** and dispose of all contaminated objects. Clean hands with antimicrobial cleanser.
7. **RETURN** to service.

EXAMINERS:

- **EXAMINER IS TO USE UNUSED DISPOSABLE LATEX GLOVES OR NON-ALLERGENIC EQUIVALENT WHEN CHECKING THAT CANDIDATE’S SERVICE. DOUBLE BAG AND DISPOSE USED GLOVES.**
- **FOLLOW WITH ANTIMICROBIAL SCRUB ON HANDS.**
- **DOCUMENT INCIDENT IN BLOOD SPILL LOG.**

NOTE: DO NOT ALLOW CONTAINERS, BRUSHES, NOZZLES OR LIQUID STYPTIC TO TOUCH THE SKIN OR CONTACT THE WOUND. USE AN APPLICATOR. EXAMINERS SHOULD ALSO COMPLETE AN INCIDENT REPORT.

WET DISINFECTION STANDARD

- 1** All tools and implements, **EXCEPT THOSE THAT HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS** must be disinfected, at minimum, by complete immersion in an EPA registered, *bactericidal, virucidal, fungicidal, and pseudomonacidal (Formulated for Hospitals)* disinfectant that is mixed and used according to the manufacturer’s directions.
- 2** All tools and implements **WHICH HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS** must be disinfected, at minimum, by complete immersion in an EPA registered disinfectant that is effective *against HIV-1 and human Hepatitis B Virus or Tuberculocidal* that is mixed and used according to the manufacturer’s directions.

DRY STORAGE STANDARD

Disinfected implements must be stored in a disinfected, dry, covered container and be isolated from contaminants.

HAND WASHING

(Anti-Bacterial Soap is recommended)

Thoroughly wash hands and the exposed portions of arms with antibacterial soap and water before providing services to **each client** and after smoking, drinking, eating, and using the restroom.

NAIL TECHNOLOGY

Practical Examinations

Liquid Monomer containing *Methyl Methacrylate (MMA)* is **prohibited** for use during NIC practical examinations.

Odorless sculpture nail products **are required** for use during NIC practical examinations.

Adopted as amended October 2002

Visit our website at www.nictesting.org