



NATIONAL ELECTROLOGY  
WRITTEN EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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The National Electrology examination is the national licensure examination for Electrologists, which is developed and administered by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC). This Candidate Information Bulletin includes the content outline covered by the NIC National Electrology examination. The time allowed for the Electrology written examination is 90 minutes.

**SCIENTIFIC  
CONCEPTS**  
65%

**Infection Control**

- ◇ Microbiology
  - Bacteria
  - Viruses
  - Fungi
  - Parasites
- ◇ Methods of infection control
  - Heat
  - Chemical agents
  - Ultraviolet
- ◇ Levels of infection control
  - Sanitation
  - Disinfection
  - Sterilization
- ◇ Safety procedures
  - Center for Disease Control (CDC)
  - OSHA standards
  - Chemicals (labeling, mixing, storage)

**Basic Concepts of Electricity**

- ◇ Characteristics of electricity and electrical measurement
- ◇ Types
  - Direct currents
  - Alternating currents
- ◇ Modalities of Electrolysis
  - Galvanic
  - Thermolysis
  - Blend

**Basic Chemistry**

- ◇ Organic and inorganic matter
- ◇ Elements, compounds, and mixtures
- ◇ Acidity/alkalinity (pH)
- ◇ Effect of galvanic action

**Human Physiology and Anatomy**

- ◇ Cells
- ◇ Tissues
- ◇ Organs
- ◇ Systems and their functions
- ◇ Understand skin histology
  - Layers of the skin
  - Structures of the skin
  - Functions of the skin
- ◇ Diseases and disorders of the skin
  - Primary lesions
  - Secondary lesions
  - Sebaceous disorders
  - Sudoriferous disorders
  - Pigmentation
  - Inflammation
  - Hypertrophies
- ◇ Hair and its growth cycle
  - Hair structure
  - Hair types
  - Hair growth cycles
  - Regrowth
  - Excessive hair growth

**SERVICES**  
35%

**Consultation**

- ◇ Confidentiality
- ◇ Previous treatments
- ◇ Explanation of treatment
  - Possible effects from treatment
  - Expected result of treatment
  - Grounded plugs
- ◇ Effects of temporary hair removal
  - Physical
  - Chemical (i.e. depilatory)
- ◇ After-care/home care

**Client Record Keeping**

- ◇ Medical history
  - Conditions
  - Contraindications
  - Medications
- ◇ Record of treatment
  - Modality used
  - Machine settings
  - Treatment area
  - Size and type of needle/probe
  - Products used

**Safe Practices**

- ◇ Equipment & supplies
  - Equipment operation and maintenance
  - Safety procedures
  - Types of machines
  - Use and care of needles/probes
  - Disposable supplies
- ◇ Client Protection
  - Draping procedures
  - Eye protection
  - Maltreatment
- ◇ Positioning
  - Client
  - Electrologist
- ◇ Selection of needle or probe
  - Skin type
  - Hair type
- ◇ Insertion of needle/probe
  - Angle
  - Depth

**Treatment Selection**

- ◇ Electrolysis
- ◇ Thermolysis
- ◇ Blend

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Electrology Written Examination. Each question is followed by four answer choices. Only one choice is correct. Correct answers are listed following the sample questions.

1. Disease producing bacteria are called
  - a. hyperemia.
  - b. pathogenic.
  - c. hypo-allergenic.
  - d. non-pathogenic.
2. Which of the following would result in the GREATEST production of lye?
  - a. Increase both current and time
  - b. Decrease both current and time
  - c. Increase current and decrease time
  - d. Decrease current and increase time
3. Hair grows from the papilla by multiplication of the
  - a. matrix cells.
  - b. stratum lucidum.
  - c. papillary layer.
  - d. reticular region.
4. What temporary method of hair removal accelerates the shedding of the horny layer of the skin?
  - a. Bleaching
  - b. Depilatory
  - c. Threading
  - d. Clipping

5. Electrolysis is recognized as the only proven method of permanent hair removal by the
- a. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
  - b. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
  - c. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
  - d. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Answers	
1. b	4. b
2. a	5. b
3. a	

**ELECTROLOGY REFERENCES**

*Milady's Hair Removal Techniques: A Comprehensive Manual, 2004, Bickmore, Helen, R., Milady*  
 5 Maxwell Drive  
 Clifton Park, NY 12065  
 (800) 730-2214  
[www.Milady.com](http://www.Milady.com)

*Electrolysis, Thermolysis, and the Blend*  
*The Principles and Practices of Permanent Hair Removal, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., 1994*  
 Arroway Publishing

*Modern Electrology: Excess Hair, Its Causes and Treatments, 1987*  
 Milady  
 5 Maxwell Drive  
 Clifton Park, NY 12065  
 (800) 730-2214  
[www.Milady.com](http://www.Milady.com)

*Cosmetic and Medical Electrolysis and Temporary Hair Removal*  
*A Practice Manual and Reference Guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 1997*  
 Medric Ltd.  
 Toronto, Ontario  
 (416) 590-9842

*Infection Control Standards for the Practice of Electrology*  
 American Electrology Association

**OPTIONAL REFERENCES**

*NIC Health and Safety Standards*  
 NIC, Inc., October 2002  
[www.nictesting.org](http://www.nictesting.org)