



NATIONAL HAIR DESIGN
WRITTEN EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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The National Hair Design examination is the national licensure examination for Hair Designers, 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 Hair Design examination, sample questions and answers. The time allowed for the Hair Design written examination is 90 minutes.

**SCIENTIFIC
CONCEPTS
40%**

Infection Control

- ◇ Microbiology
 - Bacteria
 - Viruses
 - Parasites
 - Immunity
 - Prevention
- ◇ Methods of infection control
 - Sanitation
 - Disinfection
 - Sterilization
- ◇ Federal regulations
 - OSHA guidelines
 - Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Universal precautions
- ◇ First Aid
 - Minor bleeding
 - Minor burns
 - Minor eye irritation

Human Anatomy

- ◇ Cells
- ◇ Tissue
- ◇ Organs
 - Heart
 - Lungs
 - Skin

Basic Physiology (Body Systems)

- ◇ Skeletal system
 - Skull
 - Bones of the face
 - Bones of the neck
- ◇ Muscular system
 - Scalp muscles
 - Mastication muscles
 - Mouth muscles
 - Muscles of the eye and nose
 - Muscles of the neck
- ◇ Types of joints

- ◇ Circulatory system
 - Blood-vascular or cardiovascular system
 - Lymph-vascular system
- ◇ Endocrine system
- ◇ Respiratory system
- ◇ Integumentary system
- ◇ Nervous system
- ◇ Excretory system

Ergonomics/Body Positioning

Basic Principles of Chemistry

- ◇ Matter
- ◇ The pH scale
- ◇ Nutrition
- ◇ Medication
- ◇ Compounds
- ◇ Mixtures
- ◇ Product ingredients
- ◇ Product labeling
- ◇ Product safety

Basic Principles of Electricity

- ◇ Electric current
- ◇ Electricity in cosmetology
 - Electrotherapy
 - Light therapy

**HAIR CARE AND SERVICES
60%**

Trichology

- ◇ Properties and structure of the hair and scalp
 - Shaft
 - Root
 - Keratinization
- ◇ Hair analysis and hair quality
 - Porosity
 - Elasticity
 - Texture
 - Density
- ◇ Stages of hair growth
- ◇ Hair loss
- ◇ Conditions of the scalp and hair
 - Disorders
 - Diseases

Draping Procedures

- ◇ Shampooing
- ◇ Haircutting
- ◇ Chemical services
- ◇ Thermal

Shampooing, Conditioning, Massaging and Brushing Procedures

- ◇ Hair analysis
- ◇ Scalp analysis
- ◇ Shampooing
 - Product selection
 - Procedure
- ◇ Conditioning
 - Product selection
 - Procedure
- ◇ Scalp treatments
- ◇ Scalp massage

Principles of Hair Design

- ◇ Elements of hair design
 - Form
 - Line/Direction
 - Growth pattern
 - Texture
 - Color
- ◇ Principles of balance and design
- ◇ Facial shapes

Haircutting Procedures

- ◇ Client consultation
 - Desired look
 - Face shape
 - Lifestyle and/or climate
 - Hair analysis
- ◇ Principles of haircutting
 - Areas of the head
 - Elevation or projection
 - Lines and angles
 - Crosschecking
 - Texturizing
- ◇ Tools and safety
 - Electrical
 - Manual
- ◇ Basic haircuts
 - Solid form or blunt haircut
 - Graduated form

- Layered form
- Combination form

Hairstyling Procedures

- ◇ Client consultation
- ◇ Wet styling
- ◇ Thermal styling
- ◇ Braiding

Wigs, Hair Enhancements and Extensions

- ◇ Client consultation
- ◇ Wigs and hair enhancements
 - Wig composition (e.g., human or synthetic)
 - Wig construction (e.g., cap and capless)
 - Wig care
- ◇ Hair extensions and additions

Chemical Services Consultation

- ◇ Hair analysis
- ◇ Scalp analysis
- ◇ Predisposition (skin patch) test
- ◇ Preliminary strand test
- ◇ Desired results

Chemical Services

- ◇ Chemical waving
 - pH balance of chemical waves
 - Chemical waving procedures
- ◇ Chemical hair relaxers
 - pH balance of chemical hair relaxers
 - Chemical hair relaxing procedures

Haircoloring Procedures

- ◇ Law of color
- ◇ Types of haircolor
 - Temporary haircolor
 - Semi-and demi-permanent haircolor
 - Permanent
 - Lighteners
- ◇ Haircolor applications
 - Virgin
 - Retouch
 - Color correction

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

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

1. Which of the following substances is usually contained in a toner?
 - a. Metallic dye
 - b. Compound dye
 - c. Vegetable tint
 - d. Oxidation tint
2. The main purpose of scalp treatments is to
 - a. cure scalp disease.
 - b. make the hair more dry.
 - c. make the hair more oily.
 - d. maintain the health of the scalp and hair.
3. Action of lightener continues only as long as it remains
 - a. dry.
 - b. soft.
 - c. moist.
 - d. powdery.
4. Before disinfecting combs and brushes, they should be
 - a. wiped with a towel.
 - b. wiped with a tissue.
 - c. rinsed in cold water.
 - d. cleaned with soap and warm water.
5. What is the process used in tapering and thinning with scissors?
 - a. Clipping
 - b. Slithering
 - c. Razor cutting
 - d. Layer cutting
6. The action of chemical hair relaxers causes the hair to
 - a. stop growing.
 - b. harden and set.
 - c. form new curls.
 - d. soften and swell.

7. Styling with an air dryer should be performed on hair that is
 - a. damp.
 - b. freshly cut.
 - c. dripping wet.
 - d. completely dry.
8. When should a predisposition test be performed?
 - a. When the scalp has cuts
 - b. Before applying peroxide
 - c. Before every application of oxidizing tints
 - d. Before any application of vegetable coloring
9. Sterilization is the process of
 - a. keeping bacteria alive.
 - b. destroying offensive odors.
 - c. destroying beneficial microorganisms only.
 - d. destroying both harmful and beneficial bacteria.
10. Where should freshly laundered towels be kept?
 - a. On a clean shelf
 - b. In any convenient place
 - c. In a closed cabinet or drawer
 - d. In neat stacks by the shampoo bowl

Answers		
1. d	5. b	9. d
2. d	6. d	10. c
3. c	7. a	
4. d	8. c	

HAIR DESIGN REFERENCES

Milady's Standard Cosmetology, 2012
 Milady
 5 Maxwell Drive
 Clifton Park, NY 12065
 (800) 347-7707
www.Milady.com

Salon Fundamentals, Cosmetology, 2010
 Pivot Point International, Inc.
 Evanston, IL 60201
 (800) 886-4247
www.pivot-point.com

Cosmetology Career Concepts, Haircutting, Hairdesigning, Haircoloring, and Success Dynamics, 2010
 CLiC International
 396 Pottsville-St. Clair Highway
 Pottsville, PA 17901
 (800) 207-5400
www.clicusa.com

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

OPTIONAL REFERENCES

Milady's Standard Cosmetology, 2004 & 2008
 Milady
 5 Maxwell Drive
 Clifton Park, NY 12065
 (800) 347-7707
www.Milady.com

Salon Fundamentals Cosmetology, 2006 & 2007
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