

# Colorado Cosmetology Written Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## 1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## 2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## 3. Learn from the Explanations

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## 4. Track Your Progress

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## 5. Simulate the Real Exam

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## 6. Repeat and Review

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.**

## 7. Use Other Tools

**Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

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## **Questions**

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- 1. What type of nail gel requires being soaked off with acetone?**
  - A. Hard UV gels**
  - B. Methacrylate gels**
  - C. Polygels**
  - D. Soft UV gels**
  
- 2. What is the primary purpose of using soft UV gels?**
  - A. Helps nails grow faster**
  - B. Provides a protective overlay**
  - C. Removes stains from nails**
  - D. Strengthens natural nails**
  
- 3. Brushing the hair before a scalp treatment helps remove all of the following EXCEPT:**
  - A. Dandruff**
  - B. Dust**
  - C. Product buildup**
  - D. Tangles**
  
- 4. Which layer of the skin is primarily responsible for its structural integrity and elasticity?**
  - A. Dermis**
  - B. Epidermis**
  - C. Hypodermis**
  - D. Papillary layer**
  
- 5. What condition is characterized by the inflammation of the nail matrix?**
  - A. Onychia**
  - B. Onychotrophia**
  - C. Kolionychia**
  - D. Onychogryposis**

**6. Which company certifies the safety of pedicure chairs and hair dryers?**

- A. National Cosmetology Association**
- B. Occupational Safety and Health Administration**
- C. Underwriters Laboratories**
- D. U.S. Department of Health**

**7. When hair is violet, it is recommended to balance it with which color?**

- A. Blue**
- B. Green**
- C. Red**
- D. Yellow**

**8. Which type of haircut has hair coming to one hanging level, often used to create a sleek look?**

- A. Blunt cut**
- B. Clipper cut**
- C. Graduated cut**
- D. Shag cut**

**9. What is the most common active ingredient in chemical relaxers that permanently relax curly hair into a straighter configuration?**

- A. Ammonium Thioglycolate**
- B. Calcium Hydroxide**
- C. Potassium Hydroxide**
- D. Sodium Hydroxide**

**10. What is the name of the tube-like depression or pocket in the skin or scalp that contains the hair root?**

- A. Hair Bulb**
- B. Hair Follicle**
- C. Follicle Sheath**
- D. Cuticle**

## **Answers**

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1. A
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. D
8. A
9. A
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What type of nail gel requires being soaked off with acetone?**

- A. Hard UV gels**
- B. Methacrylate gels**
- C. Polygels**
- D. Soft UV gels**

Acetone is a common solvent used in gel nail removal, as it breaks down the structure of the gel. Hard UV gels, also known as traditional UV gels, require being soaked off with acetone because they are cured by UV light and hardened to create a strong and durable nail enhancement. Methacrylate gels also require acetone for removal, but they are less common and may not be suitable for all clients. Polygels, on the other hand, do not require being soaked off with acetone as they can be removed by filing or buffing. Soft UV gels, also known as soak-off gels, are specifically designed to be removed without acetone, making option D incorrect.

**2. What is the primary purpose of using soft UV gels?**

- A. Helps nails grow faster**
- B. Provides a protective overlay**
- C. Removes stains from nails**
- D. Strengthens natural nails**

The primary purpose of using soft UV gels is to provide a protective overlay over the natural nails. Soft UV gels are designed to enhance the appearance of nails while also offering a layer of protection against everyday wear and tear. This protective aspect helps to keep the nails looking healthy and can prevent breakage and damage. While faster nail growth and strengthening are important aspects of nail care, they are not the primary purposes of soft UV gels. Rather, soft UV gels are used to create a smooth, shiny finish while ensuring the nails are protected. Additionally, these gels do not serve as a stain remover for nails; their primary function is in enhancing and protecting the existing nail structure.

**3. Brushing the hair before a scalp treatment helps remove all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A. Dandruff**
- B. Dust**
- C. Product buildup**
- D. Tangles**

Brushing the hair before a scalp treatment is important because it helps to remove any dust, product buildup, and tangles in the hair. However, it will not help with removing dandruff, which is a scalp condition caused by a fungal infection. Therefore, option A is incorrect because brushing will not effectively remove dandruff from the scalp. The other options are incorrect because they can all be effectively removed through brushing the hair before a scalp treatment.

**4. Which layer of the skin is primarily responsible for its structural integrity and elasticity?**

- A. Dermis**
- B. Epidermis**
- C. Hypodermis**
- D. Papillary layer**

The dermis is responsible for the skin's structural integrity and elasticity, providing support and strength through collagen and elastin fibers. The epidermis is primarily responsible for protection and waterproofing, while the hypodermis is responsible for insulation and cushioning. The papillary layer is a part of the dermis and helps with nutrient exchange and touch sensitivity, but it is not the primary layer responsible for structural integrity and elasticity.

**5. What condition is characterized by the inflammation of the nail matrix?**

- A. Onychia**
- B. Onychatrophia**
- C. Kolionychia**
- D. Onychorgryposis**

The correct answer is onychia, which is indeed characterized by the inflammation of the nail matrix. This condition can result from various causes, including bacterial or fungal infections, injuries, or allergic reactions. When the nail matrix, where the nail grows, becomes inflamed, it can affect nail growth and appearance, causing symptoms such as redness, swelling, and pain around the base of the nail. Onychatrophia refers to the wasting away or atrophy of the nail, which is a different condition that may arise from various underlying health issues but does not specifically involve inflammation of the nail matrix. Kolionychia, commonly known as spoon nails, involves an abnormal shape of the nail but is not directly related to inflammation of the matrix. Onychorgryposis, or claw nails, refers to a condition where the nails thicken and curve but again does not involve the inflammation of the matrix.

**6. Which company certifies the safety of pedicure chairs and hair dryers?**

- A. National Cosmetology Association**
- B. Occupational Safety and Health Administration**
- C. Underwriters Laboratories**
- D. U.S. Department of Health**

The National Cosmetology Association primarily focuses on maintaining high professional standards for the beauty industry and does not specialize in certifying the safety of specific salon equipment. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is responsible for overseeing workplace safety and does not typically certify individual products like pedicure chairs or hair dryers. The U.S. Department of Health may regulate the manufacturing and sale of these products, but they do not certify their safety. The correct answer is C Underwriters Laboratories. This company specializes in testing and certifying the safety of various consumer products, including pedicure chairs and hair dryers.

**7. When hair is violet, it is recommended to balance it with which color?**

- A. Blue**
- B. Green**
- C. Red**
- D. Yellow**

When hair is violet, it means it has a lot of blue and red tones mixed together. In order to create a balanced and natural looking color, it's recommended to add in some yellow tones to counteract the blue and red. Choosing any of the other colors, such as blue, green, or red, would only intensify the existing tones and potentially make the hair look unnatural. Yellow is the complementary color to violet, which is why it works to balance out the color.

**8. Which type of haircut has hair coming to one hanging level, often used to create a sleek look?**

- A. Blunt cut**
- B. Clipper cut**
- C. Graduated cut**
- D. Shag cut**

A blunt cut is a type of haircut where the hair is cut straight across, creating a uniform length. This is often used to create a sleek, polished look as the hair hangs evenly and appears to be one length. B: A clipper cut is a type of haircut that uses clippers to cut the hair to a desired length. This typically creates a more textured and versatile look, as opposed to a sleek and uniform one. C: A graduated cut is a layered haircut where the hair is cut at different lengths to create volume and texture. This is not typically used to achieve a sleek look as the hair is not cut to one even level. D: A shag cut is a layered and choppy haircut, usually with longer layers on top and shorter pieces underneath. This is also not typically used to achieve a sleek look as the hair is cut to different lengths and has a more textured appearance.

**9. What is the most common active ingredient in chemical relaxers that permanently relax curly hair into a straighter configuration?**

- A. Ammonium Thioglycolate**
- B. Calcium Hydroxide**
- C. Potassium Hydroxide**
- D. Sodium Hydroxide**

The most common active ingredient in chemical relaxers that is often used to permanently relax curly hair into a straighter configuration is indeed sodium hydroxide. This substance is classified as a lye relaxer and has been widely utilized in the cosmetology industry for its effectiveness in breaking down the protein structure of the hair, which allows for a significant change in curl pattern. While ammonium thioglycolate is used in some relaxers, it typically serves as a more gentle alternative and is often associated with curl permanents rather than straightening. Calcium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide also serve as active ingredients in specific types of relaxers, but sodium hydroxide remains the most predominant choice among professionals due to its strong efficacy in achieving straight hair.

**10. What is the name of the tube-like depression or pocket in the skin or scalp that contains the hair root?**

- A. Hair Bulb**
- B. Hair Follicle**
- C. Follicle Sheath**
- D. Cuticle**

A hair bulb is a structure located at the base of the hair follicle, and it contains actively growing cells that produce hair. The hair bulb is responsible for the production of new hair as old hair falls out. Option B, the hair follicle, is incorrect because the hair follicle is the entire structure containing the hair bulb, not just the depression or pocket itself. Option C, the follicle sheath, is incorrect because it is the outer layer that surrounds the hair follicle, not the depression or pocket within the skin. Option D, the cuticle, is incorrect because it is the outermost layer of the hair shaft, not a structure within the skin or scalp. Thus, option A, hair bulb, is the correct answer as it accurately describes the tube-like depression or pocket within the skin or scalp that contains the hair root.

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# Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://coloradocosmetology.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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