

Empire Beauty School Hair Cutting Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What term describes an immune response to usually harmless substances?**
 - A. Alopecia**
 - B. Allergy**
 - C. Amphoteric**
 - D. Surfactants**
- 2. What is the process called that converts living skin cells into hard proteins?**
 - A. Keratinization**
 - B. Fibrosis**
 - C. Proteinsynthesis**
 - D. Cellular calcification**
- 3. What type of bacteria are round-shaped and can cause pus formation and illnesses like blood poisoning?**
 - A. Bacilli**
 - B. Cocci**
 - C. Spirilla**
 - D. Vibrio**
- 4. What is the term for hair that is susceptible to breakage, also known as brittle hair?**
 - A. Trichorrhesis**
 - B. Fragilitas crinium**
 - C. Telogen effluvium**
 - D. Psoriasis**
- 5. What term is used to describe the hair's overall thickness or density?**
 - A. Texture**
 - B. Dressing**
 - C. Density**
 - D. Volume**

- 6. What does hair texture refer to?**
- A. Color of the hair**
 - B. Length of the hair**
 - C. Diameter or width, quality, feel, and arrangement of individual hair strands**
 - D. Density of the hair**
- 7. What technique incorporates the use of shears to create soft, blended ends in hair styling?**
- A. Slithering**
 - B. Clipper cutting**
 - C. Texturizing**
 - D. Fringing**
- 8. What is the name of the wedge-shaped bone that joins all the bones of the cranium?**
- A. Sphenoid**
 - B. Maxilla**
 - C. Zygomatic**
 - D. Nasal**
- 9. Which haircut technique is characterized by layers cut uniformly at 90 degrees?**
- A. Long layered haircut**
 - B. Medium elevation cut**
 - C. Zero degree haircut**
 - D. Uniform layered haircut**
- 10. Which fungal infection is associated with red papules on the scalp?**
- A. Tinea capitis**
 - B. Tinea barbae**
 - C. Tinea favosa**
 - D. Alopecia areata**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. What term describes an immune response to usually harmless substances?

A. Alopecia

B. Allergy

C. Amphoteric

D. Surfactants

The term that describes an immune response to usually harmless substances is "allergy." Allergies occur when the immune system mistakenly identifies a typically innocuous substance, such as pollen, pet dander, or certain foods, as a threat. This triggers an exaggerated immune response that can result in symptoms like sneezing, itching, swelling, or more severe reactions. Understanding allergies is crucial because they can affect hair and skin health. For instance, some individuals may have allergic reactions to certain hair products, leading to scalp irritation or contact dermatitis. Recognizing the triggers and understanding the nature of allergies can help beauty professionals make informed choices about products and techniques used in their practice to ensure the comfort and safety of clients. The other terms in the choices represent different concepts. Alopecia refers to hair loss, amphoteric describes a substance that can react as either an acid or a base, and surfactants are compounds that reduce surface tension between liquids and are often used in cleaning and cosmetic products. None of these terms pertain directly to the immune response to harmless substances like allergies do.

2. What is the process called that converts living skin cells into hard proteins?

A. Keratinization

B. Fibrosis

C. Proteinsynthesis

D. Cellular calcification

The process that converts living skin cells into hard proteins is known as keratinization. This biological process involves the transformation of keratinocytes, which are the predominant cell type in the outer layer of the skin, into cells that produce keratin, a tough and fibrous protein. As keratinocytes move from the deeper layers of the epidermis to the surface, they undergo mitosis and eventually lose their nuclei, filling with keratin and losing their viability. This results in the formation of a protective barrier that helps to prevent water loss and shield underlying tissues from environmental hazards. Keratinization is a crucial process for maintaining skin integrity and resilience. It is particularly important in areas of the skin that experience additional wear and tear, as it aids in the formation of thicker layers that provide enhanced protection and durability.

3. What type of bacteria are round-shaped and can cause pus formation and illnesses like blood poisoning?

- A. Bacilli
- B. Cocci**
- C. Spirilla
- D. Vibrio

The type of bacteria that are round-shaped and can lead to pus formation and illnesses like blood poisoning are classified as cocci. Cocci are spherical bacteria that can exist singly, in pairs, chains, or clusters. They play a significant role in various infections; for example, certain strains of cocci, such as staphylococci and streptococci, are known to cause skin infections, respiratory illnesses, and more severe conditions like sepsis. Understanding the morphology of bacteria is crucial in the field of cosmetology, as recognizing potential infections can help in maintaining hygiene and sanitation in beauty practices. Bacilli, on the other hand, are rod-shaped bacteria, while spirilla are spiral-shaped and vibrio are comma-shaped; none of these typically cause pus formation in the same manner as cocci do. This distinction helps in identifying the types of bacterial infections and understanding their potential impact on health.

4. What is the term for hair that is susceptible to breakage, also known as brittle hair?

- A. Trichorrhesis
- B. Fragilitas crinium**
- C. Telogen effluvium
- D. Psoriasis

The correct term for hair that is susceptible to breakage, commonly referred to as brittle hair, is indeed "fragilitas crinium." This condition signifies that the hair structure is weakened, leading to increased fragility and a propensity for the hair to break easily. Fragilitas crinium can result from various factors, including excessive heat styling, chemical treatments, or lack of moisture. Understanding this term is essential for hair care professionals, as it helps them to identify and address issues related to hair health. Recognizing signs of fragility can guide appropriate treatment options and product recommendations to strengthen and repair the hair. In contrast, trichorrhesis refers to a specific hair shaft defect characterized by a bulbous swelling and subsequent breakage. Telogen effluvium is a temporary hair loss condition triggered by stress or hormonal changes, while psoriasis is a skin condition that can affect the scalp but is not specifically related to hair breakage. Each of these terms pertains to different aspects of hair and scalp health, highlighting the importance of understanding various hair conditions in the beauty industry.

5. What term is used to describe the hair's overall thickness or density?

- A. Texture**
- B. Dressing**
- C. Density**
- D. Volume**

The term used to describe the hair's overall thickness or density is density itself. Density specifically refers to how much hair is present on the scalp and can range from thin to thick. It indicates the number of individual hair strands per square inch of the scalp. Understanding density is essential for stylists as it affects how a haircut might look and behave, as well as how much styling product may be needed. Texture, on the other hand, refers to the natural feel or surface quality of the hair, such as whether it is coarse, medium, or fine. Dressing often relates to how hair is styled or arranged rather than its physical characteristics. Volume pertains to the amount of body or lift within the hair, often influenced by styling techniques, but does not directly describe thickness or density. Understanding these distinctions helps in making informed decisions when cutting and styling hair.

6. What does hair texture refer to?

- A. Color of the hair**
- B. Length of the hair**
- C. Diameter or width, quality, feel, and arrangement of individual hair strands**
- D. Density of the hair**

Hair texture refers to the diameter or width, quality, feel, and arrangement of individual hair strands. This encompasses the intrinsic characteristics of the hair, including whether it is fine, medium, or coarse, as well as the overall structure of the hair fibers. Understanding hair texture is crucial for hairstylists because it affects how hair behaves and responds to different styling techniques, products, and treatments. For example, finer hair may require different products compared to coarser hair to achieve desired styles and maintain health. In contrast, the other options address aspects of hair that are distinct from its texture. Color refers to the pigmentation of the hair strands; length pertains to how long the hair is; and density defines the number of hair strands on the scalp. While these factors are important in hairstyling and hair care, they do not define what hair texture is.

7. What technique incorporates the use of shears to create soft, blended ends in hair styling?

- A. Slithering**
- B. Clipper cutting**
- C. Texturizing**
- D. Fringing**

The technique that utilizes shears to create soft, blended ends in hair styling is known as slithering. This method involves sliding the scissors down the hair shaft while cutting, which results in a feathered effect and allows for seamless blending at the ends. This technique is particularly effective for removing bulk from thick hair, adding movement, and ensuring a soft transition between lengths. Slithering is distinguished by its ability to create texture and softness without leaving harsh lines, making it a favored technique among stylists who aim to achieve a polished, natural finish in hairstyles. By focusing on the ends of the hair, slithering helps to enhance the overall shape and flow, resulting in a more dimensionally appealing look. Other techniques like clipper cutting tend to focus on creating precise lines and shorter hairstyles, texturizing is broader and can involve various methods including thinning shears, and fringing specifically refers to cutting bangs or the fringe area of the hair. These methods do not predominantly emphasize the soft, blended finish provided by slithering.

8. What is the name of the wedge-shaped bone that joins all the bones of the cranium?

- A. Sphenoid**
- B. Maxilla**
- C. Zygomatic**
- D. Nasal**

The wedge-shaped bone that connects all the bones of the cranium is known as the sphenoid bone. This bone plays a crucial role in the structure of the skull, serving as a central keystone that holds together various cranial bones. Its unique shape allows it to articulate with multiple other bones, including the frontal, temporal, parietal, and occipital bones. The sphenoid also contributes to the formation of the base of the cranium and the orbits of the eyes. This anatomical feature is essential for providing stability to the skull and supporting the overall structure of the head. Other options do not fulfill this specific anatomical function. For example, the maxilla is primarily involved in forming the upper jaw and parts of the orbits, while the zygomatic bone contributes to the cheek area. The nasal bones create the bridge of the nose. None of these bones serve the central connecting role that the sphenoid bone does in the cranium.

9. Which haircut technique is characterized by layers cut uniformly at 90 degrees?

- A. Long layered haircut**
- B. Medium elevation cut**
- C. Zero degree haircut**
- D. Uniform layered haircut**

The technique characterized by layers cut uniformly at 90 degrees is known as a uniform layered haircut. This method involves elevating the hair straight up from the head at a 90-degree angle, which allows the stylist to create even layers throughout the hair. The result is a balanced, harmonious look that adds volume and movement. In a uniform layered haircut, the hair is cut to the same length uniformly around the head, leading to a consistent appearance with layers that blend seamlessly. This is different from other techniques, as it emphasizes a specific angle of elevation which remains consistent, affecting how the hair falls and frames the face. Long layered haircuts typically incorporate longer pieces mixed with layers, often using various elevations rather than strictly at 90 degrees. Medium elevation cuts can introduce a mix of lengths but are not defined by the uniformity seen in this technique. A zero-degree haircut, also known as a blunt cut, means all hair is cut straight across with no layers, contrasting sharply with the layered approach of the uniform layered haircut.

10. Which fungal infection is associated with red papules on the scalp?

- A. Tinea capitis**
- B. Tinea barbae**
- C. Tinea favosa**
- D. Alopecia areata**

Tinea capitis is a fungal infection of the scalp that is recognized for causing scaly patches and red papules. It is commonly caused by dermatophytes, a type of fungus that targets keratinized tissues such as the hair and nails. The presence of red papules is a key symptom of this condition, which can lead to inflammation and hair loss if left untreated. This infection typically presents with areas of hair loss, itching, and sometimes even kerion, which is a painful, inflamed mass that can develop as a response to the infection. Tinea capitis is most commonly seen in children but can affect individuals of all ages. In contrast, other options refer to different conditions: Tinea barbae affects the beard area; tinea favosa causes a distinct scarring type of infection characterized by yellow crusts; and alopecia areata is an autoimmune condition that leads to hair loss without visible scalp infection. Understanding the specific characteristics of these conditions helps clarify why tinea capitis is the correct answer for this question.