# Kansas Milady Esthetician Practice Exam (Sample)

**Study Guide** 



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### **Questions**



- 1. What is the primary role of serotonin in the body?
  - A. Regulates mood
  - **B.** Assists with digestion
  - C. Promotes hair growth
  - D. Stimulates appetite
- 2. The lymphatic drainage massage primarily serves what purpose?
  - A. Enhance skin elasticity
  - **B. Stimulate blood flow**
  - C. Detoxify
  - D. Promote relaxation
- 3. Which cells recognize the antigens and assist in destroying them?
  - A. Merkel Cells
  - **B.** T-cells
  - C. Melanocytes
  - **D. Desmosomes**
- 4. Which type of nerves carry impulses from the brain to the arrector pili muscles?
  - A. Arrector nerves
  - **B.** Motor nerves
  - C. Pili nerves
  - D. Sensory nerves
- 5. What energy-producing substances are contained in almost all foods?
  - A. Calories, proteins and water
  - B. Nutrition, exercise and rest
  - C. Carbohydrates, proteins and fats
  - D. Minerals, proteins and calories

- 6. For what kind of skin condition would you use tapotement?
  - A. Acne-prone skin
  - B. Sensitive skin
  - C. Sluggish skin
  - D. Oily Skin
- 7. What are colonies of microorganisms that adhere to environmental surfaces, as well as the human body?
  - A. Microbiomes
  - **B. Biofilms**
  - C. Pathogens
  - D. Infestations
- 8. When should the State Board notify you of your license renewal?
  - A. At least 30 days prior to the expiration of a license
  - B. At least 60 days prior to the expiration of a license
  - C. One week prior to renewal
  - D. One day prior to renewal
- 9. What is the most stimulating form of massage known to help release nutrients and purify the system?
  - A. Effleurage
  - B. Tapotement
  - C. Pétrissage
  - D. Shiatsu
- 10. What is a potential risk associated with using aniline derivatives on lashes or brows?
  - A. Increased curling of lashes
  - **B.** Allergic reactions
  - C. Blindness
  - D. Darkening of non-pigmented hairs

### **Answers**



- 1. A 2. C

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



### **Explanations**



#### 1. What is the primary role of serotonin in the body?

- A. Regulates mood
- **B.** Assists with digestion
- C. Promotes hair growth
- D. Stimulates appetite

The primary role of serotonin in the body is to regulate mood. This neurotransmitter is crucial in the brain and plays a significant role in mood stabilization and emotional well-being. It helps to manage feelings of happiness and anxiety, influencing overall mood and emotional states. When serotonin levels are balanced, individuals typically experience improved mood and a sense of well-being, whereas imbalances can contribute to mood disorders such as depression. While serotonin does play a part in other bodily functions, such as digestion and appetite regulation, its most recognized and impactful role is in mood regulation. This is why it is often referred to as the "feel-good" neurotransmitter, as it helps to promote a positive mood and emotional balance.

# 2. The lymphatic drainage massage primarily serves what purpose?

- A. Enhance skin elasticity
- **B. Stimulate blood flow**
- C. Detoxify
- D. Promote relaxation

The primary purpose of lymphatic drainage massage is to detoxify the body. This type of massage is specifically designed to encourage the natural flow of lymph fluid throughout the lymphatic system, which plays a crucial role in the body's immune response and waste removal. By promoting this flow, the massage helps to eliminate toxins and waste products from the body more efficiently, thus supporting overall health and wellness. While lymphatic drainage can have secondary benefits such as promoting relaxation or potentially enhancing skin appearance, its main focus is on detoxification. The manual manipulation used in this technique helps to clear blockages and facilitate the proper functioning of the lymphatic system. This is particularly important in improving immune function and reducing the occurrence of swelling and fluid retention in the body.

# 3. Which cells recognize the antigens and assist in destroying them?

- A. Merkel Cells
- **B.** T-cells
- C. Melanocytes
- **D. Desmosomes**

T-cells are a type of lymphocyte that play a central role in the immune response. They are specifically tasked with recognizing antigens, which are foreign substances that can provoke an immune reaction. When T-cells encounter an antigen, they bind to it through their receptors, which allows them to identify the invader. Once activated, T-cells can directly kill infected cells or help coordinate the immune response by signaling other immune cells. In the context of the immune system, T-cells are crucial for identifying and targeting pathogens, including viruses and some bacteria, as well as cancerous cells. This ability to recognize and respond to antigens is fundamental for maintaining health and fighting off disease. Other cell types mentioned in the options serve different functions. For instance, Merkel cells are involved in the sense of touch, melanocytes produce the pigment melanin for skin color, and desmosomes are cellular structures that help with adherence between cells but do not participate in immune responses. They do not play a role in antigen recognition or destruction, highlighting the essential and specialized function of T-cells in the immune system.

# 4. Which type of nerves carry impulses from the brain to the arrector pili muscles?

- A. Arrector nerves
- B. Motor nerves
- C. Pili nerves
- D. Sensory nerves

Motor nerves carry impulses from the brain to the arrector pili muscles, which are responsible for causing the hair to stand up on the skin's surface in response to cold or emotional stimuli. Motor nerves are a type of efferent nerve that transmit signals from the central nervous system to the effectors, such as muscles and glands, facilitating actions like movement and contraction. In the context of the arrector pili, motor nerves specifically signal these tiny muscles located at the base of hair follicles. When activated, the arrector pili muscles contract, resulting in piloerection (the scientific term for hair standing on end). This mechanism is a part of the body's response to various stimuli, particularly in reaction to temperature changes or emotional states. While sensory nerves are responsible for transmitting sensory information to the brain, they do not directly control muscle movement. The other choices, including arrector nerves and pili nerves, are not recognized categories within human anatomy or physiology, further affirming that the correct pathway for stimulating muscle movement in this context relies explicitly on motor nerves.

# 5. What energy-producing substances are contained in almost all foods?

- A. Calories, proteins and water
- B. Nutrition, exercise and rest
- C. Carbohydrates, proteins and fats
- D. Minerals, proteins and calories

Carbohydrates, proteins, and fats are the primary macronutrients found in almost all foods that provide energy to the body. Each of these substances has distinct roles and mechanisms for energy production. Carbohydrates are typically the body's preferred source of energy because they can be quickly converted into glucose, which is essential for providing immediate energy to cells. They are found in foods like grains, fruits, and vegetables. Proteins, while primarily used for tissue repair and building, can also be metabolized for energy when necessary, especially in low-carbohydrate diets. Sources of protein include meat, dairy, legumes, and nuts. Fats are also a crucial energy source, providing a concentrated form of energy and being necessary for the absorption of certain vitamins. They come from oils, butter, avocados, and fatty fish. The other answer choices do not focus exclusively on the main energy-producing macronutrients. For instance, while calories are a measure of energy, they do not themselves constitute a substance. Similarly, nutrients encompass a broader category that includes vitamins and minerals but do not specifically highlight the primary macronutrients responsible for energy production. Therefore, the option that identifies carbohydrates, proteins, and fats correctly highlights the essential energy-providing substances found

#### 6. For what kind of skin condition would you use tapotement?

- A. Acne-prone skin
- B. Sensitive skin
- C. Sluggish skin
- D. Oily Skin

Tapotement is a type of massage technique that involves rhythmic tapping or patting movements. This method is particularly beneficial for sluggish skin, which often appears dull and lacks vitality. By using tapotement, you stimulate circulation and increase blood flow to the skin, promoting a healthier and more radiant appearance. The invigorating nature of this technique helps to energize the skin and can contribute to improved lymphatic drainage, making it suitable for conditions where the skin is not as responsive and needs a boost. In contrast, the other skin conditions listed may not respond as well to tapotement. For instance, acne-prone skin requires gentler treatments to avoid aggravating existing breakouts, while sensitive skin should be handled with caution to prevent irritation. Oily skin may benefit from different techniques that address oil control without the potential overstimulation that tapotement could cause. Therefore, tapotement is most appropriate for sluggish skin, making it the best choice in this scenario.

- 7. What are colonies of microorganisms that adhere to environmental surfaces, as well as the human body?
  - A. Microbiomes
  - **B. Biofilms**
  - C. Pathogens
  - **D.** Infestations

Biofilms are colonies of microorganisms that adhere to both environmental surfaces and the human body. They form when microorganisms attach to a surface and aggregate into structured communities, often encased in a protective extracellular matrix. This matrix provides a favorable environment for the microorganisms, facilitating their survival and growth. Biofilms can develop on various surfaces, including natural ones like rocks in aquatic environments, as well as artificial materials such as medical devices and plumbing systems. In the context of the human body, biofilms can be found on tissues and mucosal surfaces, playing a crucial role in both health and disease. The presence of biofilms can complicate infections, as they are more resistant to antibiotics and the immune response compared to free-floating bacteria. The term "microbiomes" refers to the collection of all microorganisms living in a specific environment, including their genetic material. While microbiomes encompass biofilms, they are a broader concept. Pathogens are specifically microorganisms that cause disease, and infestations typically refer to larger organisms like parasites rather than microbial colonies. Hence, the correct identification of biofilms accurately reflects the specific nature of these microbial communities adhering to surfaces.

- 8. When should the State Board notify you of your license renewal?
  - A. At least 30 days prior to the expiration of a license
  - B. At least 60 days prior to the expiration of a license
  - C. One week prior to renewal
  - D. One day prior to renewal

The accurate response is rooted in the practices surrounding license management for estheticians. The State Board typically aims to inform license holders at least 30 days before the expiration of their license. This advance notice allows professionals ample time to prepare for renewal, ensuring they complete necessary continuing education requirements or fulfill any obligations before their license lapses. Receiving notification early not only provides a buffer for potential delays in completing required tasks but also helps avoid the risk of an expired license, which can impact one's ability to practice legally. Therefore, being notified 30 days in advance strikes a balance between efficiency and practicality, making it the standard timeline for license renewal reminders in many jurisdictions.

- 9. What is the most stimulating form of massage known to help release nutrients and purify the system?
  - A. Effleurage
  - **B.** Tapotement
  - C. Pétrissage
  - D. Shiatsu

The most stimulating form of massage recognized for its ability to release nutrients and purify the system is tapotement. This technique involves rhythmic tapping or percussion movements that stimulate the nerves and muscles, enhancing circulation and invigorating the body's systems. By increasing blood flow, tapotement helps in the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to muscle tissues while also aiding in the removal of metabolic waste, contributing to the purification of the system. In contrast, effleurage is characterized by long, gliding strokes that promote relaxation and is typically used at the beginning or end of a massage. Pétrissage involves kneading and squeezing, which can also enhance circulation but is generally less stimulating than tapotement. Shiatsu, a form of Japanese massage, focuses on applying pressure to specific points and meridians rather than the vigorous, stimulating effects associated with tapotement. Each of these techniques serves unique purposes, but tapotement clearly stands out for its stimulating and purifying qualities.

- 10. What is a potential risk associated with using aniline derivatives on lashes or brows?
  - A. Increased curling of lashes
  - **B.** Allergic reactions
  - C. Blindness
  - D. Darkening of non-pigmented hairs

Using aniline derivatives on lashes or brows poses a risk of blindness due to the potential for these substances to cause severe irritation or damage to the eyes. Aniline derivatives are often used in hair dyes and can cause allergic reactions or chemical burns if they come into contact with the sensitive areas around the eyes. If the dye happens to seep into the eye or if there is accidental application, it can lead to serious complications, including irreversible damage to the eye structures that may result in vision loss. This makes the risk of blindness a significant concern when using products that contain these chemicals around such delicate areas. While allergic reactions can also occur with aniline derivatives, leading to redness or swelling, the more severe risk associated with misuse or mishaps during application is the potential for blindness. Increased curling of lashes or darkening of non-pigmented hairs are not direct risks associated with aniline derivatives, but rather outcomes that are often desired by clients seeking cosmetic enhancements.