

# Maryland Cosmetology State 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>17</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. Which type of chemical service is used to straighten naturally curly hair?**
  - A. Permanent wave**
  - B. Relaxer**
  - C. Curly perm**
  - D. Texturizer**
  
- 2. What type of identification is needed when applying for a cosmetology license in Maryland?**
  - A. Social security card**
  - B. Student ID**
  - C. Government-issued photo ID**
  - D. Passport only**
  
- 3. What tool is essential for achieving a straightened hair look?**
  - A. Curling iron**
  - B. Hair straightener**
  - C. Blow dryer**
  - D. Hot rollers**
  
- 4. What type of waste must be disposed of in a specific manner in a salon?**
  - A. Biodegradable waste**
  - B. Chemical waste**
  - C. General trash**
  - D. Recyclable products**
  
- 5. What should you do when you notice a client has a scalp infection?**
  - A. Proceed with the service and monitor closely**
  - B. Inform the client and avoid performing any services on them**
  - C. Refer the client to another salon**
  - D. Apply a medicinal treatment immediately**

**6. What does "highlighting" refer to in hair services?**

- A. Applying a full hair color**
- B. Cutting hair to different lengths**
- C. Lightening specific sections of hair for dimension**
- D. Washing hair with color-safe shampoo**

**7. When should gloves be used during chemical hair services?**

- A. Always, to protect against chemical burns**
- B. Only when applying color**
- C. When handling products**
- D. Never, they are not required**

**8. What is a key benefit of maintaining a clean work environment in cosmetology?**

- A. It ensures client comfort**
- B. It enhances product sales**
- C. It prevents accidents**
- D. It promotes health and safety**

**9. Which service would require a client to have a consultation before proceeding?**

- A. Hair coloring**
- B. Chemical hair treatments**
- C. Basic haircuts**
- D. Shampoo and conditioning**

**10. Which agency oversees the licensing of cosmetologists in Maryland?**

- A. Maryland State Board of Cosmetologists**
- B. Maryland Department of Health**
- C. Maryland State Board of Education**
- D. Maryland State Attorney General**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which type of chemical service is used to straighten naturally curly hair?**

- A. Permanent wave**
- B. Relaxer**
- C. Curly perm**
- D. Texturizer**

The type of chemical service used to straighten naturally curly hair is a relaxer. A relaxer works by altering the hair's structure through a chemical process that breaks down the protein bonds in the hair. This process allows the naturally curly or wavy hair to be transformed into a straighter texture. Relaxers are specifically formulated for this purpose, as they penetrate the hair cuticle and relax the curls, resulting in a smoother and straighter appearance. They differ from other services like permanent waves, which are intended to create curls or waves, or texturizers, which are used to loosen curls without fully straightening them. Curly perms, on the other hand, enhance or create curls, making them unsuitable for the desired outcome of straightening curly hair. By understanding the function and outcome of a relaxer, it's clear why this service is the correct choice for straightening naturally curly hair.

**2. What type of identification is needed when applying for a cosmetology license in Maryland?**

- A. Social security card**
- B. Student ID**
- C. Government-issued photo ID**
- D. Passport only**

When applying for a cosmetology license in Maryland, a government-issued photo ID is required. This type of identification is crucial because it verifies the applicant's identity and age, ensuring that they meet the legal requirements to hold a cosmetology license. A government-issued photo ID can include a driver's license, state ID card, or passport, reflecting the individual's full name and photograph. Using a government-issued form of identification helps maintain the integrity of the licensing process, ensuring that licenses are granted only to those who have been properly identified by official documentation. Options like a social security card or a student ID do not serve the dual purpose of confirming identity and age in the same official manner as a government-issued photo ID, making them insufficient for this process. While a passport could also be a valid form of ID, it is one specific type of government-issued ID rather than the general type required by the licensing board.

**3. What tool is essential for achieving a straightened hair look?**

- A. Curling iron**
- B. Hair straightener**
- C. Blow dryer**
- D. Hot rollers**

A hair straightener is specifically designed for straightening hair, making it an essential tool for achieving a sleek, straightened look. This device uses heated plates to flatten the hair cuticle, which results in smooth, straight strands. Its effectiveness comes from its ability to provide consistent heat and pressure, allowing users to style their hair efficiently and achieve the desired straightened appearance. In contrast, a curling iron is intended for creating curls or waves rather than straightening hair. While a blow dryer can help in drying and volumizing hair, it does not provide the same level of straightening as a hair straightener. Hot rollers are also used primarily for creating curls and waves, which makes them unsuitable for achieving a straightened look.

**4. What type of waste must be disposed of in a specific manner in a salon?**

- A. Biodegradable waste**
- B. Chemical waste**
- C. General trash**
- D. Recyclable products**

In a salon setting, chemical waste must be disposed of in a specific manner due to the potential hazards and environmental concerns associated with such materials. Chemical waste refers to substances that are considered hazardous, such as unused or expired products, dyes, perm solutions, or cleaning agents that contain toxic ingredients. Proper disposal of chemical waste is crucial to prevent contamination of water supply and soil, as well as to protect both salon staff and clients from potential health risks. In Maryland, there are strict regulations that govern how salons must handle and dispose of hazardous waste, often requiring them to use designated containers and sometimes even engage with certified waste disposal services to ensure compliance with local and federal laws. In contrast, biodegradable waste, general trash, and recyclable products don't pose the same level of risk and can typically be managed with standard waste management procedures. While it's still important to recycle and manage these types of waste appropriately, they do not require the specialized handling and regulatory compliance that chemical waste does. Thus, understanding the significance and regulations surrounding chemical waste disposal is essential for any professional working in a salon.

## 5. What should you do when you notice a client has a scalp infection?

- A. Proceed with the service and monitor closely**
- B. Inform the client and avoid performing any services on them**
- C. Refer the client to another salon**
- D. Apply a medicinal treatment immediately**

Informing the client and avoiding performing any services is the appropriate course of action when a scalp infection is observed. This ensures the client's health and safety are prioritized, as scalp infections can be contagious and require proper medical evaluation and treatment. Continuing with the service could worsen the client's condition, risk spreading infection, or lead to complications. By avoiding service, you allow the client the opportunity to seek the appropriate medical care necessary to address the infection effectively. Involving a medical professional is crucial because they can provide a definitive diagnosis and recommend a suitable treatment plan tailored to the client's specific needs. Prioritizing hygiene and safety in the salon environment is essential, ensuring that both the client and other clients are protected.

## 6. What does "highlighting" refer to in hair services?

- A. Applying a full hair color**
- B. Cutting hair to different lengths**
- C. Lightening specific sections of hair for dimension**
- D. Washing hair with color-safe shampoo**

Highlighting in hair services specifically refers to the technique of lightening selected sections of hair to create dimension and contrast. This process involves using a bleaching agent or lighter color to elevate the selected strands, resulting in a multi-tonal effect that can enhance the hair's texture and overall appearance. Unlike applying a full hair color, which would change the entire head of hair to a single shade, highlighting focuses on only particular areas, allowing for greater versatility and personalization in styling. Cutting hair to different lengths is unrelated to the coloration process and pertains instead to shaping the hair. Washing hair with color-safe shampoo, while important for maintaining the vibrancy of colored hair, does not apply to the highlighting technique itself. Thus, the correct understanding of highlighting involves the lightening of specific sections, which is fundamental in achieving a layered, dimensional look.

## 7. When should gloves be used during chemical hair services?

- A. Always, to protect against chemical burns**
- B. Only when applying color**
- C. When handling products**
- D. Never, they are not required**

Using gloves during chemical hair services is essential to protect both the stylist and the client from the harmful effects of chemicals used in hair treatments. Chemical hair services often include products that can cause skin irritation, allergic reactions, or even chemical burns upon contact with the skin. By wearing gloves, the professional ensures that their hands are shielded from these substances, which is crucial for maintaining their health and safety. Additionally, gloves help to prevent cross-contamination between different products and minimize the risk of unintentional exposure for the client. This becomes especially important during processes like hair coloring, perming, or relaxing, where prolonged contact with harsh chemicals is common. Therefore, the practice of always wearing gloves is not only a safety precaution but also a professional standard within the cosmetology industry.

## 8. What is a key benefit of maintaining a clean work environment in cosmetology?

- A. It ensures client comfort**
- B. It enhances product sales**
- C. It prevents accidents**
- D. It promotes health and safety**

Maintaining a clean work environment in cosmetology is crucial for promoting health and safety. A hygienic space reduces the risk of infections and the spread of harmful bacteria, which can be particularly significant in settings where skin and hair treatments are performed. By ensuring that tools, surfaces, and products are clean and sanitized, cosmetologists protect clients from potential health issues that could arise due to improper sanitation practices. While ensuring client comfort, enhancing product sales, and preventing accidents are important aspects of a cosmetology business, they often stem from a foundational emphasis on hygiene and cleanliness. A clean environment helps in creating an overall positive experience for the client, which can indirectly contribute to comfort and satisfaction. Additionally, a tidy and safe workspace can help market the services effectively, leading to better product sales. However, the primary and most immediate benefit directly linked to cleanliness in this context is the promotion of health and safety for both clients and the practitioner.

**9. Which service would require a client to have a consultation before proceeding?**

- A. Hair coloring**
- B. Chemical hair treatments**
- C. Basic haircuts**
- D. Shampoo and conditioning**

A consultation is crucial before proceeding with chemical hair treatments because these services involve significant alterations to the hair's structure and composition. Chemical treatments can include processes such as perming, relaxing, or hair straightening, which may have varying effects based on the client's hair type, history, and overall health. During the consultation, the stylist assesses the client's hair condition, discusses previous chemical services they might have had, and identifies any potential allergies or sensitivities. This step ensures that the treatment chosen is suitable for the client's specific needs and minimizes the risk of adverse reactions or damage to the hair. In contrast, hair coloring, while also often benefiting from a consultation, tends to follow more straightforward guidelines and can often be applied without as extensive a discussion regarding hair structure—as long as areas like allergies are checked. Basic haircuts and shampooing and conditioning are routine services that normally do not require a detailed consultation, as they involve less modification of the hair's structure and are typically safe for any client, assuming they have no specific concerns or requests.

**10. Which agency oversees the licensing of cosmetologists in Maryland?**

- A. Maryland State Board of Cosmetologists**
- B. Maryland Department of Health**
- C. Maryland State Board of Education**
- D. Maryland State Attorney General**

The agency responsible for overseeing the licensing of cosmetologists in Maryland is the Maryland State Board of Cosmetologists. This organization is specifically tasked with regulating the practice of cosmetology, ensuring that professionals meet the required educational and practical standards before obtaining and maintaining their licenses. The board conducts examinations, enforces licensing laws, and oversees the compliance of cosmetology schools, ensuring that the industry maintains high standards of practice and safety for both practitioners and clients. The other options, while related to various aspects of state governance, do not specifically deal with the licensing of cosmetologists. The Maryland Department of Health focuses on public health policies and initiatives, the Maryland State Board of Education oversees educational institutions and standards, and the Maryland State Attorney General deals primarily with legal matters and the enforcement of laws. Each of these agencies plays a distinct role, but the regulation and licensing of cosmetologists fall squarely within the jurisdiction of the Maryland State Board of Cosmetologists.

# 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://marylandcosmetology.examzify.com>**

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

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