

Nevada State Board of Cosmetology Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What type of disease can be transmitted through blood exposure in a salon?**
 - A. Skin diseases**
 - B. Respiratory diseases**
 - C. Bloodborne pathogens**
 - D. Allergies**
- 2. What is the consequence of not performing a strand test before coloring?**
 - A. Better color results**
 - B. No consequences**
 - C. Unexpected color outcomes**
 - D. Faster application time**
- 3. Which hair type is typically more resistant to chemical processing?**
 - A. Fine hair**
 - B. Medium hair**
 - C. Coarse hair**
 - D. Sparse hair**
- 4. In color theory, what color is achieved when mixing red and yellow?**
 - A. Purple**
 - B. Green**
 - C. Orange**
 - D. Brown**
- 5. What is the benefit of using a leave-in conditioner?**
 - A. It adds color to the hair**
 - B. It provides moisture and protection**
 - C. It helps hair to dry faster**
 - D. It acts as a styling gel**

- 6. What is the difference between a basic haircut and a texturizing haircut?**
- A. A basic haircut is shorter than a texturizing haircut.**
 - B. A basic haircut is uniform, while texturizing adds layers and movement.**
 - C. A basic haircut requires more products than a texturizing haircut.**
 - D. A basic haircut is only for straight hair, whereas texturizing is for curly hair.**
- 7. What type of brush is best for detangling wet hair?**
- A. A round brush**
 - B. A fine-tooth comb**
 - C. A wide-tooth comb**
 - D. A paddle brush**
- 8. What is the purpose of continuing education for licensed cosmetologists in Nevada?**
- A. To help cosmetologists transition into teaching**
 - B. To ensure they remain compliant with new regulations**
 - C. To promote networking among professionals**
 - D. To update their knowledge on techniques and health regulations**
- 9. Which skin condition is characterized by redness and irritation?**
- A. Eczema**
 - B. Dermatitis**
 - C. Psoriasis**
 - D. Rosacea**
- 10. What is the ideal angle to hold scissors for slicing?**
- A. 30 degrees**
 - B. 45 degrees**
 - C. 60 degrees**
 - D. 90 degrees**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of disease can be transmitted through blood exposure in a salon?

- A. Skin diseases**
- B. Respiratory diseases**
- C. Bloodborne pathogens**
- D. Allergies**

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms present in blood that can cause disease in humans. In a salon setting, these pathogens can be transmitted through direct exposure to blood, such as during services that may involve cuts or abrasions, like hair cutting, shaving, or any procedure that might result in bleeding. Understanding bloodborne pathogens is crucial for cosmetology professionals because proper sanitation and hygienic practices are necessary to prevent the spread of diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. These types of pathogens can survive outside the human body and can pose serious health risks not only to clients but also to the practitioners if safety protocols are not strictly followed. In contrast to skin diseases, which may be more related to topical infections or irritations, or respiratory diseases that are typically transmitted through droplets rather than blood, bloodborne pathogens specifically necessitate awareness and handling of blood or potentially contaminated materials within the salon. Allergies generally revolve around individual sensitivities and are not transmitted in the same way as infectious diseases. Therefore, a fundamental understanding of bloodborne pathogens is essential in maintaining a safe salon environment.

2. What is the consequence of not performing a strand test before coloring?

- A. Better color results**
- B. No consequences**
- C. Unexpected color outcomes**
- D. Faster application time**

Performing a strand test before coloring is critical to achieving the desired hair color outcome. The primary consequence of skipping this step is the risk of unexpected color outcomes. When stylists do not test a small section of hair prior to applying color, they cannot predict how the hair will react to the dye. Hair can vary greatly in porosity, texture, and previous treatments, which all influence how the color will develop. Without this test, the color may turn out too dark, too light, or result in an undesirable hue that does not match the client's expectations. A strand test helps to mitigate these risks by allowing the stylist to see the actual reaction of the hair to the product, enabling adjustments to be made if necessary before applying the color to the entire head. It's important to emphasize that this step ensures better communication between the stylist and the client, as it sets realistic expectations based on the test results. Thus, the strand test is a best practice that leads to more satisfying and predictable color results.

3. Which hair type is typically more resistant to chemical processing?

- A. Fine hair**
- B. Medium hair**
- C. Coarse hair**
- D. Sparse hair**

Coarse hair is typically more resistant to chemical processing due to its larger diameter and denser structure, which makes it less permeable to chemicals. The cuticle, or outer layer of the hair, is thicker and more tightly packed in coarse hair strands, contributing to this resistance. This means that when applying chemical treatments like coloring or perming, more time and stronger formulations may be required to achieve the desired results compared to finer hair types. Coarse hair can also retain its shape and structure better after such processes, making it an important consideration for hairstylists when determining the approach for chemical services. In contrast, fine hair has a smaller diameter and is more porous, leading to a quicker and often more dramatic response to chemical treatments. Medium hair offers a balance between these two extremes but generally is not as resistant as coarse hair. Sparse hair lacks density but doesn't fit into the context of resilience in chemical processes. Understanding these characteristics is crucial in cosmetology for effective hair treatment and management.

4. In color theory, what color is achieved when mixing red and yellow?

- A. Purple**
- B. Green**
- C. Orange**
- D. Brown**

When red and yellow are mixed together, the resulting color is orange. This is due to the way colors combine according to the principles of color theory. Red is a primary color, and yellow is also a primary color. When two primary colors are mixed, they typically create a secondary color. In this case, the mixture of red and yellow produces orange, which is the secondary color derived from these two primary colors. In the context of color theory, understanding the relationships between colors is crucial for various applications in cosmetology, such as hair coloring, makeup application, and design. Knowing how to mix colors effectively allows a cosmetologist to achieve the desired hues and effects for their clients.

5. What is the benefit of using a leave-in conditioner?

- A. It adds color to the hair
- B. It provides moisture and protection**
- C. It helps hair to dry faster
- D. It acts as a styling gel

Using a leave-in conditioner primarily benefits hair by providing moisture and protection. Unlike regular conditioners that are typically rinsed out after a few minutes, leave-in conditioners are formulated to remain in the hair and continue to nourish it throughout the day. This ongoing hydration helps to combat dryness, frizz, and damage, especially for those with curly, coarse, or chemically-treated hair. Additionally, leave-in conditioners often contain ingredients that offer protection against environmental factors such as UV rays and heat from styling tools. This protective barrier can minimize potential damage, promoting healthier hair over time. The continual presence of moisture and protective elements from a leave-in conditioner contributes to smoother, more manageable hair with a less frizzy appearance. Other choices do not reflect the primary function of a leave-in conditioner. Option A, which suggests that it adds color, pertains to hair dyes or toners rather than treatments focused on hydration. Option C mentions faster drying, which is not a primary purpose of leave-in conditioners; their role is more about maintenance rather than altering drying times. Finally, option D implies that leave-in conditioners function as styling gels, while they are intended for conditioning, not for holding styles, which is the role of styling products like gels or mousses.

6. What is the difference between a basic haircut and a texturizing haircut?

- A. A basic haircut is shorter than a texturizing haircut.
- B. A basic haircut is uniform, while texturizing adds layers and movement.**
- C. A basic haircut requires more products than a texturizing haircut.
- D. A basic haircut is only for straight hair, whereas texturizing is for curly hair.

The difference between a basic haircut and a texturizing haircut lies in their structure and the techniques used during the cutting process. A basic haircut is typically characterized by a uniform length throughout the hair. This type of cut maintains a consistent silhouette, often intended to create a clean and polished look. In contrast, a texturizing haircut focuses on modifying the hair's shape and adding movement through various cutting techniques. Texturizing involves techniques such as layering, slicing, or point-cutting, which can help to remove bulk or add dimension to the hair. This type of haircut is designed to create softness, enhance the hair's natural texture, and allow for more versatility in styling, contributing to a more dynamic and lively appearance. The correct choice emphasizes the fundamental distinctions in styling goals and methods between basic and texturizing haircuts. The characteristics of each haircut serve different aesthetic purposes, catering to the needs and preferences of the client.

7. What type of brush is best for detangling wet hair?

- A. A round brush
- B. A fine-tooth comb
- C. A wide-tooth comb**
- D. A paddle brush

A wide-tooth comb is best for detangling wet hair due to its design, which features widely spaced teeth. This spacing allows the comb to glide through the hair more easily, minimizing the risk of breakage and damage that can occur when hair is wet and more vulnerable. Wet hair is often more fragile than dry hair, and a wide-tooth comb helps to gently work through tangles without pulling or tugging excessively. This makes it an ideal tool for maintaining hair health while detangling. Using other tools, like a round brush, may create more tension in the hair and can lead to additional tangling, especially when wet. A fine-tooth comb is too narrow for detangling and can catch on knots, increasing the likelihood of hair breakage. While a paddle brush can be effective for smoothing and styling dry hair, it is not designed specifically for detangling wet hair and might not be as gentle as the wide-tooth comb in this context.

8. What is the purpose of continuing education for licensed cosmetologists in Nevada?

- A. To help cosmetologists transition into teaching
- B. To ensure they remain compliant with new regulations
- C. To promote networking among professionals
- D. To update their knowledge on techniques and health regulations**

Continuing education for licensed cosmetologists in Nevada is crucial for ensuring that professionals stay current with the latest techniques, industry standards, and health regulations. This ongoing learning process is designed to enhance their skills and knowledge, which is vital in an ever-evolving field like cosmetology. As trends change and new products or technologies emerge, it's important for cosmetologists to be equipped with up-to-date information to provide the best services to their clients. Additionally, keeping informed about health regulations helps to ensure that cosmetologists maintain safe practices, minimizing the risk of harm to clients and themselves. While transitioning into teaching, compliance with regulations, and networking are aspects of the industry that may benefit from continuing education, the primary focus is on updating knowledge and skills to uphold high standards in practice and ensure client safety.

9. Which skin condition is characterized by redness and irritation?

- A. Eczema**
- B. Dermatitis**
- C. Psoriasis**
- D. Rosacea**

The condition characterized by redness and irritation is dermatitis. Dermatitis is a general term that refers to inflammation of the skin, which can manifest as redness, swelling, and discomfort. It often results from a variety of irritants or allergens and can affect individuals of all ages. The irritation may be accompanied by other symptoms such as itching, scaling, or blistering, depending on the specific type of dermatitis. Eczema is a specific form of dermatitis that usually includes a chronic and recurring rash, often with additional symptoms like dryness and itchiness. Psoriasis, on the other hand, is an autoimmune condition that often produces red, scaly patches, but the primary symptom is often plaque formation rather than just redness and irritation. Rosacea is also characterized by redness but is primarily associated with flushing and visible blood vessels in the face, often accompanied by other symptoms such as bumps or pimples. Understanding these nuances helps clarify why dermatitis is the most accurate answer when it comes to a general condition defined by redness and irritation.

10. What is the ideal angle to hold scissors for slicing?

- A. 30 degrees**
- B. 45 degrees**
- C. 60 degrees**
- D. 90 degrees**

The ideal angle to hold scissors for slicing is 45 degrees. This angle allows for effective cutting while maintaining control over the hair. At 45 degrees, the blades can create a natural, graduated effect that enhances the movement and texture of the hair. This technique is particularly useful for adding layers and depth, making it a fundamental skill in hairstyling. Using a 30-degree angle might not provide enough precision or control for slicing, as it can lead to more blunt cuts rather than the soft, feathered look that is often desired. A 60-degree angle could increase the risk of the blades catching on the hair, making it harder to achieve a smooth cut. Holding the scissors at a 90-degree angle would lead to a straight cut, which is contrary to the intentions of slicing, as it would lack the desired feathered finish. Therefore, the 45-degree angle is preferred for its ability to balance control and the stylistic outcome.