

Nevada State Board of Cosmetology 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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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

- 1. What is the correct way to dispose of hazardous materials in a salon?**
 - A. Throw them in regular trash bins**
 - B. Recycle them with other materials**
 - C. Dispose of them according to local regulations**
 - D. Flush them down the toilet**
- 2. Which common chemical is used in hair coloring?**
 - A. Hydrogen peroxide**
 - B. Ammonia**
 - C. Sodium chloride**
 - D. Ethyl alcohol**
- 3. What tool is commonly used to create curls in hair?**
 - A. Flat iron**
 - B. Blow dryer**
 - C. Curling iron**
 - D. Round brush**
- 4. What should be done if a chemical spill occurs in the salon?**
 - A. Ignore it if it's small**
 - B. Follow the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) guidelines**
 - C. Cover it with a towel and continue working**
 - D. Wait for the supervisor to handle it**
- 5. What is the significance of using gloves during chemical treatments?**
 - A. They provide warmth during treatments**
 - B. They offer aesthetic appeal to the service**
 - C. They protect from chemical exposure and irritation**
 - D. They prevent product wastage**

- 6. What is a common benefit of using a base coat prior to nail polish application?**
- A. It helps the polish to dry faster**
 - B. It enhances the color of the polish**
 - C. It prevents staining of the natural nail**
 - D. It increases chip resistance**
- 7. What is the purpose of a patch test before applying a color treatment?**
- A. To check for the right shade**
 - B. To determine hair texture**
 - C. To check for allergic reactions**
 - D. To measure hair length**
- 8. How often should a client get a haircut to maintain a specific style?**
- A. Every 2 weeks**
 - B. Every 4-6 weeks**
 - C. Every 8 weeks**
 - D. Every 3 months**
- 9. What is the primary use of shampoo in hair care?**
- A. To condition the hair**
 - B. To remove dirt and oils**
 - C. To add color to the hair**
 - D. To style the hair**
- 10. What defines single-process hair color?**
- A. Coloring the hair with highlights**
 - B. Coloring the hair in one step without any lightening**
 - C. Coloring the hair with multiple shades**
 - D. Coloring the hair with a double process**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the correct way to dispose of hazardous materials in a salon?

- A. Throw them in regular trash bins**
- B. Recycle them with other materials**
- C. Dispose of them according to local regulations**
- D. Flush them down the toilet**

Disposing of hazardous materials in a salon must be conducted in accordance with local regulations, which is critical for ensuring safety and environmental protection. Various hazardous materials, such as used chemicals, contaminated supplies, or client waste, require specific handling and disposal procedures that are outlined by local, state, and federal laws. Following these regulations is essential for preventing harm to the environment and public health, as improper disposal could lead to contamination of land and water sources, potential hazards to wildlife, and even legal ramifications for the salon itself. Local regulations typically specify designated drop-off sites, special containers, or licensed waste disposal services that are equipped to handle hazardous materials safely. The other choices highlight improper methods that could lead to serious consequences. For instance, throwing hazardous materials in regular trash bins poses a risk of exposure and contamination during waste collection and processing. Recycling such materials with other types also fails to recognize the specific handling required for hazardous waste, thus potentially causing environmental damage. Flushing hazardous substances down the toilet can lead to contamination of water supplies and is often illegal, reflecting a lack of understanding of safe disposal practices. Therefore, adhering to local regulations is the correct and responsible approach for disposing of hazardous materials in a salon setting.

2. Which common chemical is used in hair coloring?

- A. Hydrogen peroxide**
- B. Ammonia**
- C. Sodium chloride**
- D. Ethyl alcohol**

Ammonia is a crucial component in many hair color formulations due to its ability to open the hair cuticle, allowing the color to penetrate into the hair shaft. The alkaline nature of ammonia helps in the process of oxidation, which is essential for the development of the dye molecules that create long-lasting color. Without ammonia, the hair color would not effectively penetrate, limiting its longevity and vibrancy. While hydrogen peroxide is also an important chemical in hair coloring, as it serves as an oxidizing agent that activates the dye and lightens the hair, it works in conjunction with ammonia to achieve effective results. Sodium chloride is typically used for other purposes in cosmetics and is not directly involved in the coloring process, while ethyl alcohol serves different functions, such as acting as a solvent, but doesn't play a primary role in hair dyeing itself. Thus, ammonia is most widely recognized for its specific effectiveness in hair coloring applications.

3. What tool is commonly used to create curls in hair?

- A. Flat iron
- B. Blow dryer
- C. Curling iron**
- D. Round brush

The tool that is commonly used to create curls in hair is the curling iron. This specialized heating instrument is specifically designed to wrap and curl sections of hair around a heated barrel, which helps to form defined, long-lasting curls and waves. The locking mechanism on the curling iron allows for control over the shape and tightness of the curl, making it a popular choice for achieving various styles, from loose waves to tighter curls. Flat irons are primarily designed for straightening hair rather than curling it, as they work by clamping and smoothing hair between two heated plates. Blow dryers are used for drying hair and can assist in styling but do not create curls by themselves without the use of additional styling tools. Round brushes, while helpful in creating some volume and waves when used with a blow dryer, do not provide the same level of curl definition as a curling iron does. Therefore, the curling iron is the clear choice for producing curls in hair.

4. What should be done if a chemical spill occurs in the salon?

- A. Ignore it if it's small
- B. Follow the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) guidelines**
- C. Cover it with a towel and continue working
- D. Wait for the supervisor to handle it

In the event of a chemical spill in the salon, it is essential to follow the guidelines outlined in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the specific chemical involved. The MSDS provides critical information about the risks associated with the chemical, appropriate handling procedures, and specific steps for cleanup and first aid measures if needed. Following these guidelines ensures the safety of both employees and clients, helps prevent potential hazards from escalating, and aligns with best practices for handling chemicals in a professional environment. This approach underscores the importance of being prepared and knowledgeable about the chemicals utilized in the salon. Each chemical can have unique properties that affect how spills should be managed, including whether protective equipment is necessary, what cleaning agents can be safely used, and any specific disposal considerations that must be followed to adhere to regulatory requirements. Understanding and utilizing the MSDS thus not only enhances safety protocols within the salon but also demonstrates compliance with occupational safety regulations, further protecting the business and its employees.

5. What is the significance of using gloves during chemical treatments?

- A. They provide warmth during treatments**
- B. They offer aesthetic appeal to the service**
- C. They protect from chemical exposure and irritation**
- D. They prevent product wastage**

Using gloves during chemical treatments is crucial for protecting the skin from exposure to potentially harmful substances. Many chemicals used in cosmetic procedures can cause irritation, allergic reactions, or other skin issues if they come into contact with the skin. Wearing gloves creates a barrier, safeguarding both the cosmetologist and the client from these adverse effects. While providing warmth, enhancing aesthetic appeal, or preventing product wastage may seem relevant in various contexts, they do not represent the primary purpose of gloves in this situation. The primary concern during chemical treatments is safety, making the protective function of gloves the most significant aspect.

6. What is a common benefit of using a base coat prior to nail polish application?

- A. It helps the polish to dry faster**
- B. It enhances the color of the polish**
- C. It prevents staining of the natural nail**
- D. It increases chip resistance**

Using a base coat prior to nail polish application serves several important purposes, one of which is the prevention of staining on the natural nail. When colored polishes, particularly darker shades, are applied directly onto the natural nail without a protective base layer, there is a risk of the pigments from the polish penetrating the nail plate, which can lead to discoloration and yellowing over time. A well-formulated base coat creates a barrier that protects the nail, effectively reducing the chances of such staining and maintaining the health and appearance of the natural nails. This protective property makes the use of a base coat essential not only for aesthetic purposes but also for long-term nail health, promoting a visually appealing result without compromising the natural nail underneath.

7. What is the purpose of a patch test before applying a color treatment?

- A. To check for the right shade**
- B. To determine hair texture**
- C. To check for allergic reactions**
- D. To measure hair length**

The purpose of a patch test before applying a color treatment is to check for allergic reactions. This is an essential safety measure in cosmetology, especially when working with hair dyes and other chemical treatments that can cause skin irritation or allergic responses. The patch test involves applying a small amount of the color product to a discreet area of skin, typically behind the ear or on the inner elbow, and observing it for a specified period—usually 24 to 48 hours. If any redness, itching, or swelling occurs, it indicates that the client may be allergic to one or more ingredients in the product. This test helps prevent potential adverse reactions during the full application, ensuring the safety and well-being of the client. Other options, such as checking for the right shade and determining hair texture, do not involve evaluating the client's health or safety and therefore are not the primary function of a patch test. Measuring hair length is unrelated to the necessity of conducting a patch test before a chemical treatment.

8. How often should a client get a haircut to maintain a specific style?

- A. Every 2 weeks**
- B. Every 4-6 weeks**
- C. Every 8 weeks**
- D. Every 3 months**

To maintain a specific hairstyle, most stylists recommend that clients get haircuts every 4 to 6 weeks. This frequency allows for the upkeep of the haircut's shape and structure, ensuring that the style remains fresh and well-defined. Hair grows at an average rate of about half an inch per month, so regular trims within this timeframe help to prevent split ends and maintain the desired length and overall appearance. Choosing to have a haircut every 4 to 6 weeks provides a balance; it is frequent enough to keep the hairstyle looking polished without requiring too much commitment from the client. Haircuts too soon, such as every 2 weeks, may not be necessary for most styles, and longer intervals, like every 8 weeks or 3 months, can result in a loss of shape and style definition.

9. What is the primary use of shampoo in hair care?

- A. To condition the hair
- B. To remove dirt and oils**
- C. To add color to the hair
- D. To style the hair

The primary use of shampoo in hair care is to remove dirt and oils from the hair and scalp. Shampoo is specifically formulated with surfactants that create lather, effectively lifting and washing away impurities, excess sebum, and product buildup. Regular use of shampoo is essential for maintaining clean and healthy hair, ensuring that the strands are not weighed down by oils or debris. While conditioning the hair, adding color, or styling are important aspects of hair care, these functions are typically performed by other products specifically designed for those purposes. Shampoos focus on cleansing, making them a fundamental step in any hair care routine. The cleansing process prepares the hair for further treatments, such as conditioning or styling, which enhances hair health and appearance.

10. What defines single-process hair color?

- A. Coloring the hair with highlights
- B. Coloring the hair in one step without any lightening**
- C. Coloring the hair with multiple shades
- D. Coloring the hair with a double process

Single-process hair color refers to the technique of coloring the hair in one step, achieving a change in color without the need for any lightening beforehand. This method is typically used to apply a solid color or to cover grey hair effectively. It allows for a uniform color that can add richness and depth to the hair. The correct choice emphasizes that the process occurs in a single application without involving any lightening agents. This is crucial for clients looking for a natural, glossy look that is consistent from root to tip. In contrast, options that involve highlights or multiple shades imply a more complicated technique that includes varying colors or lightening processes, which does not apply to single-process color. Additionally, double-process color involves both lifting (lightening) the hair and then applying a color, which is entirely different from the single-process technique.

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.

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

<https://nevadacosmetology.examzify.com>

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