

# Oregon Cosmetology Certification 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**

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**1. What treatment is typically recommended for dry hair?**

- A. Protein treatments**
- B. Moisturizing treatments**
- C. Color correction**
- D. Scalp exfoliation**

**2. What is the primary function of a conditioner?**

- A. To clean the hair**
- B. To add shine**
- C. To moisturize and detangle**
- D. To protect against heat**

**3. How many hours of training are required to complete a cosmetology program in Oregon?**

- A. 1,000 hours**
- B. 1,200 hours**
- C. 1,500 hours**
- D. 1,800 hours**

**4. What is the main function of a conditioner?**

- A. To clarify and remove buildup**
- B. To hydrate and smooth the hair cuticle**
- C. To add color to the hair**
- D. To enhance volume**

**5. What is the significance of the dermis layer of the skin?**

- A. It is the outer layer of the skin**
- B. It contains connective tissue, hair follicles, and glands**
- C. It is responsible for pigmentation**
- D. It helps regulate body temperature**

**6. How often should a salon's tools be disinfected?**

- A. At the end of each week**
- B. After each client**
- C. Once a day**
- D. Once a month**

**7. What tool is used for more precise cutting in hair styling?**

- A. Razor**
- B. Shears**
- C. Thinning shears**
- D. Clippers**

**8. How should a stylist assess a client's hair texture?**

- A. By examining hair color**
- B. By evaluating the hair strand thickness and overall appearance**
- C. By checking scalp condition**
- D. By measuring hair length**

**9. What is the recommended way to store chemicals in a salon?**

- A. In a heated area to maintain potency**
- B. In a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight**
- C. In the refrigerator**
- D. In an open space for easy access**

**10. What does the term "30 volume developer" indicate in hair color processing?**

- A. It promotes permanent color change**
- B. It lifts color and is used to achieve high lightening effects**
- C. It is only used for temporary color**
- D. It enhances hair shine without lifting color**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What treatment is typically recommended for dry hair?

- A. Protein treatments
- B. Moisturizing treatments**
- C. Color correction
- D. Scalp exfoliation

Moisturizing treatments are highly recommended for dry hair because they are specifically designed to hydrate and replenish moisture. Dry hair often lacks natural oils and moisture, resulting in a brittle and lifeless appearance. A moisturizing treatment typically includes ingredients such as oils, humectants, and emollients that work to attract and retain moisture in the hair strands. By applying a moisturizing treatment, you can improve the elasticity, softness, and overall health of the hair. These treatments help to relieve dryness and provide nourishment, making the hair easier to manage and style. In contrast, while protein treatments can be beneficial for strengthening weak hair, they do not address moisture levels directly. Color correction is aimed at altering hair color rather than enhancing moisture. Scalp exfoliation focuses on the scalp's health, which, while important, does not treat the issue of dry hair specifically.

## 2. What is the primary function of a conditioner?

- A. To clean the hair
- B. To add shine
- C. To moisturize and detangle**
- D. To protect against heat

The primary function of a conditioner is to moisturize and detangle the hair. Conditioners are formulated with ingredients that help to replenish moisture lost during cleansing and styling processes. They contain emollients and humectants that work to soften the hair shaft, reduce friction between hair strands, and make it easier to comb through or style the hair without causing damage. This is especially important for maintaining hair health and minimizing breakage. While conditioners may add shine and provide some level of protection against heat, these functions are secondary to their primary role of moisturizing and detangling. Adding shine can be a benefit of some conditioners, but it is not their main purpose. Similarly, heat protection can be provided by specific type of products, but general conditioners focus primarily on hydration and ease of detangling. Thus, understanding the main benefits of conditioners allows professionals in cosmetology to better cater to the needs of their clients.

**3. How many hours of training are required to complete a cosmetology program in Oregon?**

- A. 1,000 hours**
- B. 1,200 hours**
- C. 1,500 hours**
- D. 1,800 hours**

In Oregon, to successfully complete a cosmetology program, students are required to undergo a total of 1,500 hours of training. This extensive training ensures that aspiring cosmetologists gain comprehensive knowledge and practical skills across various areas of cosmetology, including hair cutting, coloring, skin care, and nail technology. The requirement of 1,500 hours was established to provide enough time for students to become proficient and prepared for state licensure examinations. This rigorous structure reflects the state's commitment to maintaining high standards in the cosmetology profession, ensuring that practitioners are well-equipped to provide safe and effective services to clients.

**4. What is the main function of a conditioner?**

- A. To clarify and remove buildup**
- B. To hydrate and smooth the hair cuticle**
- C. To add color to the hair**
- D. To enhance volume**

The main function of a conditioner is to hydrate and smooth the hair cuticle. Conditioners are formulated with ingredients that help restore moisture to the hair, making it softer and easier to manage. They work by coating the hair strands, which helps to fill in any gaps in the cuticle layer, reducing frizz and improving overall texture. This smoothing effect leads to less breakage and helps to improve shine, resulting in healthier-looking hair. While clarifying agents are important for removing buildup from styling products and environmental factors, that function is not central to what conditioners do. Some products are specifically made to add color to hair, but this is a separate function associated with hair color treatments rather than conditioning. Similarly, while certain volumizing products can add body and lift to the hair, a traditional conditioner's primary role is not to enhance volume but to provide moisture and care for the hair's condition.

**5. What is the significance of the dermis layer of the skin?**

- A. It is the outer layer of the skin**
- B. It contains connective tissue, hair follicles, and glands**
- C. It is responsible for pigmentation**
- D. It helps regulate body temperature**

The dermis layer of the skin plays a crucial role in providing structural support and elasticity to the skin. It is located beneath the outer epidermis and is significantly thicker. One of its key features is that it contains connective tissue, which provides strength and resilience. Additionally, the dermis houses important structures such as hair follicles, which are essential for hair growth, and various glands—including sweat and sebaceous glands—that contribute to skin health and hydration. The presence of blood vessels in the dermis is vital as they transport nutrients and oxygen to the skin, and help in thermoregulation through the regulation of blood flow. This comprehensive makeup of the dermis is why it is significant; it is not only a support layer but also houses many functional elements critical to the overall health and function of the skin. While the dermis does assist in temperature regulation and has a role in pigmentation through its blood supply and interactions with the epidermis, its primary defining features are found in its composition of connective tissue, hair follicles, and glands. These characteristics collectively make option B the correct answer.

**6. How often should a salon's tools be disinfected?**

- A. At the end of each week**
- B. After each client**
- C. Once a day**
- D. Once a month**

Tools in a salon should be disinfected after each client to ensure the highest standards of hygiene and safety. This practice is crucial to prevent the spread of infections and cross-contamination between clients. Disinfecting after each use minimizes the risk of transmitting bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens that can be present on surfaces or tools. In the context of a salon, tools such as scissors, combs, brushes, and any other implements that come into direct contact with clients' skin or hair must be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between each use. This ensures that each client receives services in a clean and safe environment, fostering trust and professionalism. Other suggested intervals, such as at the end of each week, once a day, or once a month, do not adhere to best practices for infection control and hygiene, thereby increasing the risk of contamination and unhealthy conditions in the salon. Ultimately, the health and safety of clients depend on rigorous disinfection practices after every service.

## 7. What tool is used for more precise cutting in hair styling?

- A. Razor
- B. Shears**
- C. Thinning shears
- D. Clippers

Shears are the primary tool used for more precise cutting in hair styling. They are designed with straight blades that allow for clean and controlled cutting. This makes them suitable for creating defined lines, angles, and symmetrical shapes in hair. Shears enable stylists to achieve a variety of cutting techniques, such as blunt cuts or layering, with a high level of accuracy. While razors can also create a textured look and add softness to the ends of the hair, they do not provide the same level of precision for defined cuts. Thinning shears, on the other hand, are specifically designed to remove bulk and add texture, rather than to create sharp lines or detailed styles. Clippers are mainly used for bulk cutting and creating fades or shorter styles, not for detailed work. Therefore, among the listed tools, shears are the choice that allows for the most precision in hair cutting.

## 8. How should a stylist assess a client's hair texture?

- A. By examining hair color
- B. By evaluating the hair strand thickness and overall appearance**
- C. By checking scalp condition
- D. By measuring hair length

Assessing a client's hair texture is critical for providing appropriate styling and care recommendations. The correct answer involves evaluating the thickness of individual hair strands and their overall appearance. This assessment allows the stylist to identify whether the hair is fine, medium, or coarse, which significantly influences the choice of products, styling techniques, and haircuts that will work best for the client. The thickness of hair strands is one of the primary indicators of hair texture, as it affects how hair behaves and responds to styling. For instance, fine hair tends to be more delicate and may require lighter products, while coarse hair can withstand heavier treatments. The overall appearance, such as shine and elasticity, can also provide insights into the hair's health and texture. Other options, while relevant to hair care, do not directly relate to hair texture assessment. Examining hair color may offer insights into chemical treatments but does not inform about thickness or texture. Checking the scalp condition is essential for overall hair health but again does not address the texture of the hair itself. Measuring hair length is useful for determining styles but does not provide information on the texture or health of the hair strands. Hence, focusing on strand thickness and overall appearance is key to accurately assessing hair texture.

## 9. What is the recommended way to store chemicals in a salon?

- A. In a heated area to maintain potency
- B. In a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight**
- C. In the refrigerator
- D. In an open space for easy access

Storing chemicals in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight is essential for maintaining their stability and effectiveness. Many chemicals, especially those used in cosmetology, can be sensitive to temperature fluctuations and light exposure. Heat can cause chemicals to degrade or lose potency, while moisture may lead to unwanted reactions or even hazardous situations. Direct sunlight can also affect the chemical composition of products, potentially leading to changes in color, texture, or efficacy. By keeping these substances in a cool and dry location, it ensures that they remain in optimal condition for use, thereby safeguarding both the salon's operations and the health of clients. While refrigeration might seem like a good option, it may not be suitable for all chemicals, as some products may require specific storage conditions that a refrigerator doesn't provide. Open spaces can lead to contamination or accidental spills, increasing the risk of accidents or improper use.

## 10. What does the term "30 volume developer" indicate in hair color processing?

- A. It promotes permanent color change
- B. It lifts color and is used to achieve high lightening effects**
- C. It is only used for temporary color
- D. It enhances hair shine without lifting color

The term "30 volume developer" refers to a specific strength of hydrogen peroxide used in hair color processing, particularly in the context of hair lightening. This developer contains 9% hydrogen peroxide, which is capable of lifting the hair's natural color and allowing for a more significant lightening effect when combined with permanent hair color products. When using a 30 volume developer, it is particularly effective for achieving high levels of lift, making it suitable for methods that require a more dramatic change in color, such as going from dark to light shades. It can also be used with highlights and balayage techniques, enabling the stylist to create brighter, sun-kissed looks. In comparison, lower volume developers, such as 10 or 20 volume, are typically used for less drastic color changes and may not provide the same level of lift. The other options don't accurately represent the action of a 30 volume developer: it is not limited to temporary color application, nor is it primarily focused on enhancing shine without changing the color. This makes the distinction of "lifting color" essential in understanding the specific role of a 30 volume developer in hair coloring processes.

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

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

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