

Oregon Cosmetology State Board - Hair Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. 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.

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. 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!

Questions

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- 1. If red is added to blue-based colors, how will the resulting colors appear?**
 - A. Darker**
 - B. Brighter**
 - C. Lighter**
 - D. More muted**

- 2. What does a color wheel help you identify in hair coloring?**
 - A. Hair textures**
 - B. Complementary colors and tones**
 - C. Hair porosity levels**
 - D. Types of hair treatments**

- 3. Which type of conditioner is designed to penetrate the cortex and temporarily reconstruct the hair shaft from within?**
 - A. Moisturizing conditioner**
 - B. Protein conditioner**
 - C. Leave-in conditioner**
 - D. Deep conditioner**

- 4. To cover unpigmented hair in a salt-and-pepper client, the color formulation should be:**
 - A. One level lighter than the natural level**
 - B. Two levels lighter than the natural level**
 - C. The same as the natural level**
 - D. Two levels darker than the natural level**

- 5. What kind of bonds are considered weak physical side bonds related to electrical charges?**
 - A. Hydrogen bonds**
 - B. Covalent bonds**
 - C. Disulfide bonds**
 - D. Salt bonds**

- 6. If a client's hair has been treated with a hydroxide relaxer, what is its curl formation status?**
- A. Can hold a curl**
 - B. Will not hold a curl**
 - C. Can form loose curls**
 - D. Will curl with heat**
- 7. What substance is classified as a universal solvent?**
- A. Alcohol**
 - B. Water**
 - C. Vinegar**
 - D. Glycerin**
- 8. What is the liquid substance within the outer cell wall of bacteria called?**
- A. Cytoplasm**
 - B. Protoplasm**
 - C. Plasma**
 - D. Cell sap**
- 9. What is a key feature of a product designed to improve hair manageability?**
- A. It contains harsh chemicals**
 - B. It is a clarifying shampoo**
 - C. It makes hair feel dry**
 - D. It is a conditioning shampoo**
- 10. What hair care service should be performed prior to a haircut for best results?**
- A. Conditioning.**
 - B. Shampooing.**
 - C. Blow-drying.**
 - D. Dyeing.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If red is added to blue-based colors, how will the resulting colors appear?

A. Darker

B. Brighter

C. Lighter

D. More muted

When red is added to blue-based colors, the resulting hues tend to appear lighter. This phenomenon occurs due to the way color mixing works, particularly with additive color theory. By introducing red—which is a warm color—to a blue-based color, which is cooler, the mix can create a vibrant and lively tone. The interaction between the warmth of red and the coolness of blue can create a balanced, harmonious shade that often looks brighter and more vivid than the original blue. This is particularly true with certain blue shades that may have a more muted or subdued appearance on their own. Lighter hues emerge because the addition of red introduces a new dimension to the base color, shifting it in a way that makes it appear more dynamic and less dark. However, it's important to note that this transformation can vary significantly depending on the proportions of each color used. Adding red effectively brightens the overall visual impact of the blue-based color, resulting in a lighter and more engaging final color outcome.

2. What does a color wheel help you identify in hair coloring?

A. Hair textures

B. Complementary colors and tones

C. Hair porosity levels

D. Types of hair treatments

A color wheel is a fundamental tool in hair coloring that helps identify complementary colors and tones. By understanding the relationships between colors on the wheel, a stylist can determine which shades enhance or neutralize others. For example, if someone wishes to counteract unwanted brassy tones in blonde hair, the color wheel indicates that using a violet-based toner can effectively neutralize those warm hues. This knowledge is crucial for achieving the desired hair color results and ensuring that color selections harmonize well with each other. While hair textures, porosity levels, and treatment types are important aspects of cosmetology, they do not relate specifically to the purpose of a color wheel. Textures pertain to the feel and structure of the hair, porosity deals with how well hair absorbs moisture and products, and treatments focus on various methods used to improve hair health. These elements play significant roles in overall hair care and styling but are not factors addressed by the color wheel in the context of color theory.

3. Which type of conditioner is designed to penetrate the cortex and temporarily reconstruct the hair shaft from within?

- A. Moisturizing conditioner**
- B. Protein conditioner**
- C. Leave-in conditioner**
- D. Deep conditioner**

The type of conditioner designed to penetrate the cortex and temporarily reconstruct the hair shaft from within is a protein conditioner. Protein conditioners are specifically formulated to provide the hair with the necessary building blocks—such as amino acids and proteins—that are vital for maintaining and strengthening the hair's internal structure. When applied, they can help to fill in gaps and weaknesses in the hair's cortex, which is essential for improving the overall strength and resilience of the hair. This type of conditioner is particularly beneficial for hair that has been damaged due to chemical treatments, heat styling, or environmental factors. By fortifying the hair from within, protein conditioners can lead to healthier-looking hair and can reduce breakage, making them an important part of a hair care regimen, especially for individuals with compromised hair integrity.

4. To cover unpigmented hair in a salt-and-pepper client, the color formulation should be:

- A. One level lighter than the natural level**
- B. Two levels lighter than the natural level**
- C. The same as the natural level**
- D. Two levels darker than the natural level**

The correct approach for covering unpigmented (gray or white) hair, particularly in a salt-and-pepper client, is to use a color formulation that is two levels lighter than the natural hair color. This strategy is effective because it allows for better blending of the natural hair (which has some pigmentation) with the unpigmented strands. Using a lighter shade helps achieve a more natural look, creating dimension and reducing the stark contrast between the pigmented and unpigmented hairs. If the color applied was the same as the natural level, it may not adequately cover the gray, leading to a lack of uniformity. Similarly, choosing a shade that is only one level lighter may not provide enough contrast for effective coverage. Opting for two levels darker would not only fail to cover the gray, but it could also make the overall color appear too dark and potentially unnatural against the lighter strands. Thus, selecting a formulation two levels lighter is the most suitable option for achieving a balanced and blended appearance.

5. What kind of bonds are considered weak physical side bonds related to electrical charges?

- A. Hydrogen bonds**
- B. Covalent bonds**
- C. Disulfide bonds**
- D. Salt bonds**

The correct answer pertains to salt bonds, which are indeed classified as weak physical side bonds related to electrical charges. Salt bonds form between positively charged (cationic) and negatively charged (anionic) sides of the hair's protein structure. These bonds contribute to the overall strength and stability of the hair but are relatively weak compared to covalent bonds like disulfide bonds. The electrical nature of salt bonds means they can be disrupted by changes in pH, temperature, or the presence of certain chemicals, making them significant in chemical processes such as perming or relaxing hair. Understanding these bonds is crucial in cosmetology, as it helps professionals predict and manipulate hair behavior during various treatments. In contrast, hydrogen bonds, while also weak, primarily involve the attraction between polar molecules and do not specifically relate to the electrical charges in the same way salt bonds do. Covalent bonds are much stronger and involve the sharing of electrons, which does not align with the concept of weak physical side bonds. Disulfide bonds are even stronger and result from the oxidation of two cysteine amino acids, thus playing a different role in the structural integrity of hair.

6. If a client's hair has been treated with a hydroxide relaxer, what is its curl formation status?

- A. Can hold a curl**
- B. Will not hold a curl**
- C. Can form loose curls**
- D. Will curl with heat**

When a client's hair has been treated with a hydroxide relaxer, the hair undergoes a chemical process that removes the natural curl or wave pattern. Hydroxide relaxers work by breaking the disulfide bonds in the hair structure, which are responsible for the hair's natural curl formation. Once these bonds are altered, the hair becomes significantly straighter and is unable to return to its original curl pattern—therefore, it will not hold a curl. This means that irrespective of styling techniques used afterward, such as curling or the use of heat, the hair will not revert to its previous wavy or curly state. This fundamental understanding of how hydroxide relaxers alter hair structure is crucial for professionals in the cosmetology field, as it directly impacts how they approach styling options for clients who have undergone this chemical treatment.

7. What substance is classified as a universal solvent?

- A. Alcohol
- B. Water**
- C. Vinegar
- D. Glycerin

Water is classified as a universal solvent due to its unique chemical properties. It has the ability to dissolve a wide variety of substances, making it an essential medium for countless biological reactions and processes. This dissolving capability arises from the polar nature of water molecules, which facilitates interactions with other polar compounds and ionic substances, effectively breaking them down into their constituent parts. In contrast, the other substances listed have more limited solvent capabilities. For example, alcohol can dissolve some organic substances and is useful in certain contexts, but it does not have the broad dissolving power of water. Vinegar, which is a diluted acetic acid, can dissolve some substances, particularly in culinary contexts, but its scope is also limited compared to water. Glycerin is a good solvent for specific applications, particularly with other viscous substances, but again, it does not match the universality of water as a solvent. Thus, water's ability to dissolve a vast array of materials makes it the substances classified as a universal solvent.

8. What is the liquid substance within the outer cell wall of bacteria called?

- A. Cytoplasm
- B. Protoplasm**
- C. Plasma
- D. Cell sap

The correct answer is protoplasm, which refers specifically to the living contents of a cell, including the cytoplasm and the nucleus. In the context of bacteria, the protoplasm includes the cytoplasm and various cellular organelles, all situated within the cell membrane, but outside the cell wall. This substance is crucial for maintaining the cell's metabolic functions and is where many cellular activities occur. Cytoplasm, while it constitutes a major part of the protoplasm, is just one component and does not encompass the entirety of the living material within the cell. Plasma might refer to a fluid component in biological contexts, but in terms of bacterial structure, it is not the term used to describe the cell's inner content. Cell sap usually refers to the fluid found in vacuoles of plant cells, not bacteria. Therefore, protoplasm is the term that best fits the description of the liquid substance within the outer cell wall of bacteria, capturing the comprehensive nature of the cell's living material.

9. What is a key feature of a product designed to improve hair manageability?

- A. It contains harsh chemicals**
- B. It is a clarifying shampoo**
- C. It makes hair feel dry**
- D. It is a conditioning shampoo**

A conditioning shampoo is specifically formulated to enhance the manageability of hair by providing moisture and nourishment. These products typically contain ingredients such as silicones, natural oils, and emollients, which help to smooth the hair cuticle, reduce frizz, and improve overall texture. As a result, hair becomes easier to comb through, style, and maintain, leading to a smoother, more manageable appearance. In contrast, products containing harsh chemicals might strip away natural oils from the hair, resulting in dryness and an increase in tangles, which adversely affects manageability. Clarifying shampoos are designed to remove product buildup and excess oils, but they can also leave hair feeling stripped or dry if used excessively, leading to the opposite of improved manageability. A conditioning shampoo, on the other hand, is specifically crafted to address these concerns and enhance the overall health and manageability of hair.

10. What hair care service should be performed prior to a haircut for best results?

- A. Conditioning.**
- B. Shampooing.**
- C. Blow-drying.**
- D. Dyeing.**

Shampooing should be performed prior to a haircut to ensure the best results. Clean hair allows for a more precise cut as it removes dirt, oils, and product buildup. This cleaning process helps the stylist see the natural texture and movement of the hair, making it easier to assess how it will fall post-haircut. Additionally, freshly shampooed hair is more manageable, reducing the chance of snagging the scissors on product residue. Properly shampooing the hair ensures that the stylist has an accurate view of the hair's true thickness and health, which is critical for achieving the desired haircut.

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://orcosmetologyhair.examzify.com>

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

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