

OREGON COSMETOLOGY STATE BOARD – HAIR PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. What can result from improperly applied chemical services?**
 - A. Even texture
 - B. Hair health
 - C. Loss of elasticity
 - D. Line of demarcation
- 2. What color is known to minimize orange tones in the hair?**
 - A. Red
 - B. Green
 - C. Blue
 - D. Purple
- 3. Which haircut technique creates softer, blended edges?**
 - A. Scissor over comb technique.
 - B. Slide cutting.
 - C. Point cutting.
 - D. Basic blunt cutting.
- 4. What is the correct method to rinse your implements after use?**
 - A. Under cold running water
 - B. Under warm running water
 - C. Under hot running water
 - D. With antibacterial solution
- 5. Which type of solution is used in the process of chemical hair relaxing?**
 - A. Oxidizing solution
 - B. Hydrogen peroxide solution
 - C. Reducing solution
 - D. Alkaline solution
- 6. Which tool is used to section hair during a haircut?**
 - A. Brushes
 - B. Combs
 - C. Hair clips
 - D. Scissors

7. When should you perform an elasticity test on hair?

- A. After applying relaxer
- B. During hair color application
- C. Before perms
- D. After a haircut

8. What role does an activator play in acid waves?

- A. It conditions the hair during the process
- B. It increases the speed of the wave process
- C. It enhances shine
- D. It fortifies the hair structure

9. Lyme disease and syphilis are caused by which type of bacteria?

- A. Cocci
- B. Diplococci
- C. Spirilla
- D. Bacilli

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

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

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What can result from improperly applied chemical services?

- A. Even texture
- B. Hair health
- C. Loss of elasticity
- D. Line of demarcation**

When chemical services are improperly applied, one of the most noticeable issues that can arise is the line of demarcation. This occurs when there is a distinct boundary between the treated and untreated hair, which can happen if, for example, a chemical relaxer or color is applied unevenly. This line marks the division between hair that has undergone a chemical process and that which hasn't, leading to an unbalanced look. In addition to aesthetic concerns, this line can signify issues like uneven processing, which can compromise the overall result of the chemical service. Maintaining an even and blended appearance is crucial in the beauty industry to ensure clients are satisfied with their hairstyle, particularly after chemical treatments. Other potential results of improperly applied chemical services, such as loss of elasticity and hair health issues, can also occur, but they are more related to the structural damage and overall health of the hair rather than the specific visual cue of a line of demarcation. Even texture may not be a direct consequence of improper application, as uneven chemical distribution is more indicative of an improper application process. Therefore, recognizing a line of demarcation can serve as a significant warning of improper application techniques in hair treatments.

2. What color is known to minimize orange tones in the hair?

- A. Red
- B. Green
- C. Blue**
- D. Purple

Minimizing orange tones in hair typically involves the use of a color that is opposite on the color wheel. In color theory, blue is opposite orange, making it an effective choice for neutralizing unwanted warm tones in the hair. When blue is applied to hair that has unwanted orange hues, it can cancel out or balance those tones, resulting in a cooler, more desirable hair color. This application is especially relevant in hair coloring practices such as toning, where a blue toner is used on hair that has become too warm or brassy after a lightening process. By incorporating blue, stylists can achieve a more natural or neutral shade in the final look, enhancing the overall appearance while ensuring that the color stays true to the desired results. While red, green, and purple have their uses in color correction, they do not specifically target orange tones as effectively as blue does. Red is typically used to neutralize green tones, while purple can help to minimize yellow tones, and green serves to counteract red tones. Thus, blue is specifically the color that minimizes orange tones, making it the correct answer in this context.

3. Which haircut technique creates softer, blended edges?

- A. Scissor over comb technique.
- B. Slide cutting.
- C. Point cutting.
- D. Basic blunt cutting.

The technique that effectively creates softer, blended edges is point cutting. This method involves using the tips of the scissors to cut into the ends of the hair at an angle, resulting in a textured finish. This angling gives the hair a softer appearance rather than a straight-across blunt cut, which can sometimes appear harsh. Point cutting is particularly useful for removing weight from the ends of the hair and for blending different lengths together seamlessly, helping to achieve a more modern and layered look. In contrast, other techniques do not primarily focus on achieving that soft, blended edge. Scissor over comb is more about precision and may create sharper lines, slide cutting involves gliding the scissors along the hair to remove bulk but is generally more suited for longer lengths and layers, while basic blunt cutting delivers a straight, even edge that lacks the softness and dimension associated with point cutting. Therefore, point cutting is the most effective technique for achieving softer, blended edges in a haircut.

4. What is the correct method to rinse your implements after use?

- A. Under cold running water
- B. Under warm running water
- C. Under hot running water
- D. With antibacterial solution

Rinsing implements after use is a vital step in maintaining hygiene and preventing the spread of bacteria. Warm running water is the appropriate choice because it effectively removes debris and residues from the tools while being comfortable for handling. Using warm water aids in the dislodgement of hair products, skin particles, and other contaminants that may stick to the surfaces of the implements, ensuring they are thoroughly cleaned. Additionally, warm water can help minimize the risk of damaging certain materials commonly found in cosmetology tools, as hotter water could potentially warp or weaken the structure of certain implements. Cold water, while sometimes useful for rinsing, may not be as effective in removing residues. An antibacterial solution is important for disinfecting, but it is recommended to be used after the initial rinse with water to ensure that all visible dirt or debris is removed prior to disinfection. Therefore, using warm running water aligns with best practices for hygiene in cosmetology.

5. Which type of solution is used in the process of chemical hair relaxing?

- A. Oxidizing solution
- B. Hydrogen peroxide solution
- C. Reducing solution
- D. Alkaline solution

The process of chemical hair relaxing primarily relies on a reducing solution, which works by breaking down the disulfide bonds in the hair's keratin structure. These bonds are responsible for the hair's natural curl and wave pattern. By reducing these bonds, the hair can be straightened and reshaped. Reducing agents typically contain ingredients like sodium hydroxide or guanidine hydroxide, both of which relax the hair's curls without the need for oxidizing agents. This type of solution alters the hair's internal structure, allowing it to be molded into a straighter format. In contrast, oxidizing solutions, such as hydrogen peroxide, are involved in processes that enhance color or create curls through oxidation rather than relaxation. Alkaline solutions can also be associated with different chemical processes, such as pH balancing, but they do not specifically refer to the action of reducing the hair's curl pattern. Thus, the emphasis on using a reducing solution in hair relaxing illustrates the fundamental chemical reactions at play in achieving straightened hair.

6. Which tool is used to section hair during a haircut?

- A. Brushes
- B. Combs
- C. Hair clips**
- D. Scissors

The tool used to section hair during a haircut is hair clips. Hair clips are essential for organizing and managing sections of hair, allowing a stylist to work on one section at a time without interference from other sections. This is particularly important for ensuring an even cut and precise styling. By fastening separate portions of hair away from the working area, hair clips facilitate better control and accuracy during the cutting process. While brushes, combs, and scissors are all vital tools in hairstyling, they serve different functions. Brushes are primarily used for smoothing and detangling, combs are often utilized for sectioning and styling but are typically used in conjunction with hair clips for effective sectioning, and scissors are the primary cutting tool. However, clips specifically are designed to hold hair in place while sections are being worked on, making them the most effective choice for this purpose.

7. When should you perform an elasticity test on hair?

- A. After applying relaxer
- B. During hair color application
- C. Before perms**
- D. After a haircut

Performing an elasticity test on hair is essential for assessing the condition of the hair and its ability to hold a style or chemical treatment. The correct scenario for conducting an elasticity test is before perms. This test helps determine the hair's strength and elasticity, which indicates how well it will respond to the chemical processes involved in perming. Understanding the hair's elasticity is crucial because if the hair is too weak or lacks elasticity, it may not withstand the manipulation required during perming or may lead to undesirable results, such as breakage or poor curl formation. By testing elasticity, you can make informed decisions about whether or not to proceed with a perm and what steps to take to protect the hair during the process. In contrast, performing an elasticity test after applying relaxer is not ideal since the hair's condition could change due to the chemical application. During a hair color application, the focus is typically on the color formulation and development rather than assessing hair health in terms of elasticity. Similarly, after a haircut, the hair may not be subjected to the same stressors that would necessitate an elasticity test related to chemical treatments. Thus, testing elasticity specifically before a perm allows the cosmetologist to ensure the integrity of the hair prior to any chemical services.

8. What role does an activator play in acid waves?

- A. It conditions the hair during the process
- B. It increases the speed of the wave process**
- C. It enhances shine
- D. It fortifies the hair structure

An activator in acid waves functions primarily to increase the speed of the wave process. Acid waves are known for their gentler formulation compared to alkaline waves, and the activator helps accelerate the chemical reactions involved in the perming process. This results in a quicker set time for the hair, which allows for efficient processing while still maintaining the hair's integrity. As the activator interacts with the waving lotion, it helps to break down the disulfide bonds in the hair more quickly, facilitating the reshaping of the hair into the desired curl pattern. This aspect is particularly beneficial during salon services, where time efficiency is often a consideration. Other options like conditioning, enhancing shine, or fortifying the hair structure may contribute to the overall health and appearance of hair during and after the perming process but do not specifically align with the primary function of the activator in enhancing processing speed.

9. Lyme disease and syphilis are caused by which type of bacteria?

- A. Cocci
- B. Diplococci
- C. Spirilla**
- D. Bacilli

Lyme disease and syphilis are both caused by bacteria that are classified as spirilla. This type of bacteria is characterized by its spiral or corkscrew shape, which aids in its motility and ability to penetrate various environments, including host tissues. Specifically, Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a spiral-shaped bacterium transmitted through tick bites, while syphilis is caused by *Treponema pallidum*, another spirally shaped bacterium that is transmitted primarily through sexual contact. The unique structure and mobility of spirilla allow these bacteria to navigate through the bloodstream and evade the immune response, contributing to the diseases they cause. Understanding the classification of bacteria is important in microbiology and the study of infectious diseases, as it helps inform treatment strategies and prevention measures.

10. 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.

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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