

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY RULES AND REGULATIONS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://pacosmetologyrulesreg.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What action can be taken if a license is placed in escrow and the licensee returns to practice?**
 - A. They must start the licensing process from the beginning
 - B. They can reactivate their license by request and payment
 - C. Their license is lost permanently
 - D. They must reapply for an entirely new license
- 2. Who is responsible for regulating tanning unit requirements?**
 - A. The Pennsylvania Department of Health
 - B. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration
 - C. The American Board of Cosmetology
 - D. The Environmental Protection Agency
- 3. What is an important aspect of maintaining safety standards in a cosmetology shop?**
 - A. Display of marketing materials
 - B. Regular updates to training materials
 - C. Ensuring that all areas are maintained in a sanitary fashion
 - D. Offering discounts to new clients
- 4. What is the maximum number of students allowed in a class with one teacher?**
 - A. 20
 - B. 25
 - C. 30
 - D. 35
- 5. If a cosmetologist encounters a client with a skin disease, what should they do?**
 - A. Ignore the condition
 - B. Provide treatment themselves
 - C. Refer the client to a licensed medical professional
 - D. Document the condition in the client's file

- 6. How often must cosmetologists renew their licenses in Pennsylvania?**
- A. Every year
 - B. Every two years
 - C. Every three years
 - D. Every five years
- 7. What action should a cosmetologist take if they suspect a violation of safety regulations?**
- A. Ignore it to avoid confrontation
 - B. Report it to the proper authorities
 - C. Handle it on their own
 - D. Discuss it with colleagues privately
- 8. What is one consequence of practicing without a renewed license?**
- A. They will receive a certification instead
 - B. The board may take disciplinary actions
 - C. They will automatically lose their license
 - D. It's considered a minor offense
- 9. Can cosmetology hours be applied toward barber training?**
- A. No, they cannot be applied
 - B. Yes, up to 300 hours
 - C. Yes, up to 555 hours
 - D. Yes, up to 650 hours
- 10. What is the required number of instructional hours for eligibility for the manicuring exam?**
- A. 150 hours
 - B. 200 hours
 - C. 250 hours
 - D. 300 hours

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What action can be taken if a license is placed in escrow and the licensee returns to practice?

- A. They must start the licensing process from the beginning
- B. They can reactivate their license by request and payment**
- C. Their license is lost permanently
- D. They must reapply for an entirely new license

When a license is placed in escrow, it means that the licensee has temporarily suspended their practice but intends to return in the future. In Pennsylvania, if a licensee decides to return to practice, they can indeed reactivate their license through a simple process involving a request and the payment of any applicable fees. This streamlined reactivation process acknowledges the licensee's prior training and the fact that they held a valid license before placing it in escrow, making it unnecessary for them to undergo the complete licensing process again. Starting the licensing process from the beginning, permanently losing the license, or needing to reapply for an entirely new license are incorrect actions because they imply a loss of the previous qualifications and experience that the licensee possessed. The state recognizes the need for flexibility and ease of reintegration into the profession, supporting licensed individuals who temporarily stepped away from their practice. Hence, the ability to reactivate the license with a request and payment reflects this supportive regulatory intention.

2. Who is responsible for regulating tanning unit requirements?

- A. The Pennsylvania Department of Health
- B. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration**
- C. The American Board of Cosmetology
- D. The Environmental Protection Agency

The correct answer is the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) because it is the federal agency responsible for regulating the safety and effectiveness of tanning units and other sunlamp products. The FDA sets guidelines that manufacturers must follow to ensure that tanning devices are safe for consumer use and that consumers are adequately informed about the risks associated with ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure. This includes establishing standards for the operation and labeling of tanning devices to help reduce the risk of skin damage and other health issues associated with tanning beds. While the Pennsylvania Department of Health oversees public health matters within the state, it does not specifically regulate tanning units. Instead, it may enforce broader health regulations. The Environmental Protection Agency is focused primarily on environmental protection issues and does not have regulatory authority over tanning units. The American Board of Cosmetology is involved with education and certification in the cosmetology field but does not have a regulatory role concerning tanning devices. This context clarifies the unique role of the FDA regarding tanning unit requirements, highlighting why it is the correct choice.

3. What is an important aspect of maintaining safety standards in a cosmetology shop?

- A. Display of marketing materials
- B. Regular updates to training materials
- C. Ensuring that all areas are maintained in a sanitary fashion**
- D. Offering discounts to new clients

Maintaining safety standards in a cosmetology shop centers significantly around ensuring that all areas are kept in a sanitary fashion. A clean and hygienic environment is crucial for preventing the spread of infections and illnesses, especially in a setting that deals directly with clients' skin, hair, and nails. Sanitary conditions not only protect the health of clients but also safeguard the health of cosmetologists and other staff members. This practice encompasses regular cleaning of tools, equipment, and workstations, as well as proper disposal of waste materials. By adhering to these sanitation standards, a cosmetology shop demonstrates professionalism and commitment to client safety, which is essential for building trust and maintaining a positive reputation in the industry. While other choices may contribute to the overall operation of a cosmetology establishment, they do not directly address the critical health aspect that sanitation brings to client safety and compliance with state regulations.

4. What is the maximum number of students allowed in a class with one teacher?

- A. 20
- B. 25**
- C. 30
- D. 35

The Pennsylvania State Board of Cosmetology regulations specify that the maximum number of students allowed in a class with one instructor is 25. This limit is established to ensure that each student receives adequate attention and instruction from the teacher, thereby enhancing the educational experience and maintaining a high standard of training in cosmetology practices. A lower student-to-teacher ratio allows for more personalized guidance, ensuring that students can effectively learn techniques and receive feedback on their performance. By adhering to this regulation, cosmetology schools can foster a more productive learning environment, preparing students for their future careers in the beauty industry.

5. If a cosmetologist encounters a client with a skin disease, what should they do?

- A. Ignore the condition
- B. Provide treatment themselves
- C. Refer the client to a licensed medical professional**
- D. Document the condition in the client's file

When a cosmetologist encounters a client with a skin disease, the most appropriate action is to refer the client to a licensed medical professional. This is important for several reasons. First, cosmetologists are trained to provide beauty and grooming services, not medical treatments. A skin disease could require a diagnosis and treatment that only a licensed healthcare provider is qualified to make. By referring the client to a medical professional, the cosmetologist ensures that the client receives the appropriate care that addresses their specific health issue. Additionally, handling skin conditions can pose risks both to the client and to the cosmetologist, as some skin diseases can be contagious or may require specific health interventions. Referring the client ensures that they are directed to someone who can assess the condition accurately, provide a treatment plan, or prescribe medication if needed. Furthermore, recognizing the limits of their practice is essential for cosmetologists, as it underscores the importance of maintaining a safe and professional environment. It protects the wellbeing of the client and upholds the ethical standards of the cosmetology profession. Other actions, such as ignoring the condition, providing treatment themselves, or merely documenting the condition, do not adequately address the need for medical evaluation and can compromise both the client's health and the professional integrity of the cosmetologist.

6. How often must cosmetologists renew their licenses in Pennsylvania?

- A. Every year
- B. Every two years**
- C. Every three years
- D. Every five years

Cosmetologists in Pennsylvania are required to renew their licenses every two years. This renewal process is essential to ensure that practitioners remain current with the latest trends, techniques, and safety standards in the cosmetology field. The two-year renewal period allows the licensing board to maintain a high standard of practice and ensures that professionals continue their education and comply with any changes in legislation or regulations that may affect their work. Renewing a cosmetology license biennially also serves as a means of accountability within the profession, promoting ongoing training and development. This requirement is consistent with licensing practices in various states, where regular renewals help ensure that all professionals are adequately prepared to meet the needs of their clients safely and effectively.

7. What action should a cosmetologist take if they suspect a violation of safety regulations?

- A. Ignore it to avoid confrontation
- B. Report it to the proper authorities**
- C. Handle it on their own
- D. Discuss it with colleagues privately

When a cosmetologist suspects a violation of safety regulations, the appropriate action is to report it to the proper authorities. This is essential as it ensures that any potential risks or unsafe practices are addressed by those who have the authority and responsibility to take corrective measures. Reporting violations helps maintain safety standards within the industry, protecting both clients and professionals. Taking this action emphasizes the importance of accountability in the cosmetology field. It establishes a culture of safety and compliance within salons and spas, ensuring that all practitioners adhere to regulated practices designed to safeguard public health. Ignoring violations or dealing with them privately can lead to significant risks, including the potential for health hazards affecting clients or staff. Additionally, if issues are not reported, they may continue or escalate, further endangering people's safety. Therefore, reporting suspected violations creates a proactive approach to maintaining a safe and compliant working environment.

8. What is one consequence of practicing without a renewed license?

- A. They will receive a certification instead
- B. The board may take disciplinary actions**
- C. They will automatically lose their license
- D. It's considered a minor offense

Practicing without a renewed license can lead the board to take disciplinary actions. This is a critical aspect of maintaining professional standards within the field of cosmetology. The state board is tasked with upholding regulations that ensure the safety and well-being of clients, as well as the integrity of the profession. When a cosmetologist continues to work without a valid license, they are operating outside of the legal framework established by the state, which can result in various forms of disciplinary measures. These may include fines, suspension, or revocation of the practitioner's license. Disciplinary actions serve as a deterrent against non-compliance and are essential to enforce the rules that govern the practice, ensuring that all professionals remain accountable to the licensing requirements. In contrast, a certification might not be provided for non-renewal of a license, losing a license isn't automatic in this scenario, and this situation is generally treated as a serious violation rather than a minor offense. This highlights the importance of keeping licensure up to date to maintain professional credibility and legal standing.

9. Can cosmetology hours be applied toward barber training?

- A. No, they cannot be applied
- B. Yes, up to 300 hours
- C. Yes, up to 555 hours**
- D. Yes, up to 650 hours

Cosmetology hours can indeed be applied toward barber training, and up to 555 hours of completed cosmetology training can be transferred to your barber training program. This provision allows individuals who have pursued cosmetology education to utilize some of their training when transitioning to barbering, thereby reducing the total number of hours they must complete in their new program. The rationale behind this regulation is to encourage continuity in training across related fields within the beauty industry and recognize the overlapping skills and knowledge that a cosmetologist possesses, which can be beneficial in barbering. The specific limit of 555 hours is established by the Pennsylvania State Board of Cosmetology and ensures that while some hours are transferrable, students are still required to complete certain key elements of the barber training program to ensure competency and compliance with state regulations. This structure aids in maintaining high industry standards while also providing flexibility for professionals seeking to expand their qualifications.

10. What is the required number of instructional hours for eligibility for the manicuring exam?

- A. 150 hours
- B. 200 hours**
- C. 250 hours
- D. 300 hours

To be eligible for the manicuring exam in Pennsylvania, an individual must complete a training program that consists of 200 instructional hours. These hours are designed to provide aspiring manicurists with the necessary skills and knowledge in techniques such as nail care, hygiene, nail art, and the proper use of tools and products. The focus on 200 hours ensures that students receive adequate training to meet the state's standards for competence and professionalism in the field. This requirement reflects the importance of a solid foundation in both theoretical and practical aspects of manicuring, which is essential for ensuring the safety and satisfaction of clients. It also aligns with regulations aimed at maintaining high standards within the cosmetology profession.

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://pacosmetologyrulesreg.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE