

PSI Online Manicurist 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

- 1. Which is the position a cuticle pusher should be held at from the nail plate?**
 - A. 0-10 degree angle**
 - B. 10-20 degree angle**
 - C. 20-30 degree angle**
 - D. 30-40 degree angle**
- 2. What is the primary purpose of a nail primer?**
 - A. To add color to the nail**
 - B. To enhance the adhesion of nail products**
 - C. To remove old polish**
 - D. To moisturize the nail**
- 3. All of the following are examples of single-use materials used in nail services EXCEPT:**
 - A. Disposable gloves**
 - B. Paraffin mitts**
 - C. Nail files**
 - D. Cotton balls**
- 4. During a nail tip removal service, which procedure is NOT performed?**
 - A. Nipping off the nail tip**
 - B. Soaking the nails**
 - C. Buffing the nail surface**
 - D. Applying cuticle oil**
- 5. What is the FIRST step if you get blood or other potentially infectious materials in your eyes, nose, mouth, or on broken skin?**
 - A. Apply antiseptic**
 - B. Immediately flood the exposed area with water**
 - C. Seek medical attention**
 - D. Apply pressure to the area**

- 6. The UV gel should avoid contact with all the following EXCEPT?**
- A. Skin**
 - B. Cuticles**
 - C. Matrix**
 - D. Nail plate**
- 7. What should be applied to nails before applying nail polish?**
- A. Base coat**
 - B. Top coat**
 - C. Nail strengthener**
 - D. Cuticle oil**
- 8. Why do tuberculocidal disinfectants require special handling?**
- A. They are more effective on porous surfaces**
 - B. They are intended for home use only**
 - C. They require special method of disposal**
 - D. They are flammable**
- 9. Which precaution MUST be taken when applying exfoliating foot scrubs?**
- A. Put on gloves**
 - B. Ensure the scrub is finely ground.**
 - C. Test on a small area first.**
 - D. Avoid using on cracked skin.**
- 10. Which of the following is the FIRST step in properly cleaning a footbath tub?**
- A. Drain the water from a footbath and remove any visible debris.**
 - B. Scrub the tub with disinfectant solution.**
 - C. Fill the tub with clean water for rinsing.**
 - D. Allow the tub to air dry completely.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which is the position a cuticle pusher should be held at from the nail plate?

- A. 0-10 degree angle**
- B. 10-20 degree angle**
- C. 20-30 degree angle**
- D. 30-40 degree angle**

A cuticle pusher should be held at a 20-30 degree angle from the nail plate to ensure effective yet gentle pushing back of the cuticles. This angle allows the pusher to effectively lift and move the cuticle without causing damage to the nail bed or inducing discomfort. Holding the pusher at this angle helps in maintaining control and precision, which is essential for not only the health of the nail but also for the overall aesthetic quality of a manicure. Using an angle that is too steep could lead to excessive pressure, risking injury to the delicate skin or the matrix of the nail. Conversely, holding the pusher at too shallow an angle may not adequately move the cuticle, resulting in an incomplete manicure and potentially could encourage the formation of hangnails. Thus, the 20-30 degree angle is optimal for both the safety of the nail care process and the effectiveness of cuticle management.

2. What is the primary purpose of a nail primer?

- A. To add color to the nail**
- B. To enhance the adhesion of nail products**
- C. To remove old polish**
- D. To moisturize the nail**

The primary purpose of a nail primer is to enhance the adhesion of nail products. Nail primers are formulated to create a better bond between the natural nail and the artificial nail enhancements, such as acrylics, gels, or nail polishes. This improved adhesion helps prevent lifting or peeling, ensuring that the nails last longer and maintain their integrity. The use of a primer is particularly important because it prepares the natural nail surface by removing oils and moisture, allowing for better application and performance of subsequent products. This results in a smoother finish and a more durable manicure, which is crucial for professional nail technicians aiming for high-quality results in their services.

3. All of the following are examples of single-use materials used in nail services EXCEPT:

- A. Disposable gloves**
- B. Paraffin mitts**
- C. Nail files**
- D. Cotton balls**

Single-use materials in nail services are items designed for one-time use to ensure hygiene and prevent cross-contamination between clients. Disposable gloves, nail files, and cotton balls all fit this definition, as they are typically used once and then discarded to maintain a clean and safe environment. Paraffin mitts, however, do not fall into the same category. They are usually made of durable materials that can be cleaned and reused multiple times. While paraffin wax treatments may utilize mitts that feel similar to disposable items, they are intended for repeated use after proper sanitization. This makes paraffin mitts an exception in this context, as they do not align with the single-use standard established for the other materials listed. Understanding the difference between single-use and reusable items is vital in maintaining sanitation and safety standards within nail services.

4. During a nail tip removal service, which procedure is NOT performed?

- A. Nipping off the nail tip**
- B. Soaking the nails**
- C. Buffing the nail surface**
- D. Applying cuticle oil**

Nipping off the nail tip is not a procedure that should be performed during a nail tip removal service. Proper nail tip removal involves gentle methods that protect the natural nail underneath. Nipping off the nail tip could potentially damage the natural nail or cause injury to the nail bed, which can lead to discomfort and complications. Soaking the nails is often a part of the removal process, as it helps to soften the adhesive that holds the nail tip in place, making it easier to remove without causing harm. Buffing the nail surface is also commonly done to prepare the natural nail for application of new products or nails. Applying cuticle oil is beneficial after the removal process to nourish the cuticles and promote healthy nail growth. Therefore, while these actions contribute positively to the nail care routine, nipping off the nail tip does not fit within safe and recommended practices for nail tip removal.

5. What is the FIRST step if you get blood or other potentially infectious materials in your eyes, nose, mouth, or on broken skin?

A. Apply antiseptic

B. Immediately flood the exposed area with water

C. Seek medical attention

D. Apply pressure to the area

The first step if blood or other potentially infectious materials come into contact with your eyes, nose, mouth, or broken skin is to immediately flood the exposed area with water. This action is crucial because it helps to dilute and wash away any harmful pathogens or contaminants, reducing the risk of infection. Prompt irrigation of the eyes or affected skin is essential for minimizing potential damage and preventing pathogens from entering the body, especially in sensitive areas such as the eyes or broken skin where infections can occur more easily. Following this initial action, it is important to seek medical attention, but flushing the area takes precedence to ensure immediate decontamination. The effectiveness of rinsing plays a key role in preventing any adverse effects from exposure to infectious materials.

6. The UV gel should avoid contact with all the following EXCEPT?

A. Skin

B. Cuticles

C. Matrix

D. Nail plate

UV gel is a popular product used in nail enhancements due to its durability and sheen. When applying UV gel, it is crucial to minimize contact with specific parts of the nail and surrounding skin to prevent irritation or other adverse effects. The matrix, which is the tissue located at the base of the nail, is where new nail growth occurs. It is designed to remain free of products like UV gel because any exposure can interfere with the natural growth and health of the nail. However, the nail plate, which is the hard part of the nail that we see and work on, is specifically designed to be coated with gel products as part of the nail enhancement process. In this context, avoiding contact with the skin, cuticles, and matrix provides a barrier against irritation and ensures the health of the surrounding tissues. Therefore, while care should be taken to keep these areas free from product, the nail plate is indeed the exception, as UV gel is intended to adhere to it for proper application and aesthetic value.

7. What should be applied to nails before applying nail polish?

- A. Base coat**
- B. Top coat**
- C. Nail strengthener**
- D. Cuticle oil**

Applying a base coat before nail polish is essential for several reasons. The base coat serves as a protective layer between the natural nail and the nail polish, helping to prevent staining and damage to the nail surface. It creates a smooth canvas that enhances the application of the color polish, promoting better adhesion and even coverage. Additionally, some base coats are formulated to help strengthen the nails or improve their health, further enhancing the overall quality of the manicure. While top coat, nail strengthener, and cuticle oil are important in the nail care process, they are not meant to be applied before the nail polish. The top coat is used after the nail polish to provide shine and protection, nail strengtheners are typically applied directly to the nails for their strengthening benefits, and cuticle oil is used to hydrate and nourish the cuticles, usually after the entire nail application process is complete.

8. Why do tuberculocidal disinfectants require special handling?

- A. They are more effective on porous surfaces**
- B. They are intended for home use only**
- C. They require special method of disposal**
- D. They are flammable**

Tuberculocidal disinfectants require special handling primarily because they necessitate a specific method of disposal due to their potent chemical composition and potential health risks. These disinfectants are designed to eliminate bacteria, including those that cause tuberculosis, which makes them highly effective but also potentially hazardous if not disposed of properly. Improper disposal can lead to environmental contamination or health risks to individuals who come into contact with such materials. Using these disinfectants comes with the responsibility to adhere to regulations set by health and safety organizations. These regulations often include guidelines for the safe disposal of chemical waste to minimize risks to public health and the environment. It's essential for professionals to follow these protocols to ensure safety in their practice and compliance with laws governing hazardous materials.

9. Which precaution MUST be taken when applying exfoliating foot scrubs?

- A. Put on gloves**
- B. Ensure the scrub is finely ground.**
- C. Test on a small area first.**
- D. Avoid using on cracked skin.**

When applying exfoliating foot scrubs, it is essential to put on gloves as a precautionary measure. This is crucial for several reasons. First, wearing gloves protects both the manicurist and the client from any potential contaminants that could be present on the skin. Gloves create a barrier, reducing the risk of transmitting bacteria or other pathogens that could be harmful when in contact with broken or sensitive skin. Additionally, gloves help prevent any irritation that might occur from the chemicals or ingredients in the scrub. Some exfoliants may contain strong acids or other active ingredients that can cause skin reactions if directly handled. Therefore, using gloves not only promotes hygiene but also ensures a safer application process, which is vital in a professional setting like a manicure or pedicure service.

10. Which of the following is the FIRST step in properly cleaning a footbath tub?

- A. Drain the water from a footbath and remove any visible debris.**
- B. Scrub the tub with disinfectant solution.**
- C. Fill the tub with clean water for rinsing.**
- D. Allow the tub to air dry completely.**

The first step in properly cleaning a footbath tub involves draining the water and removing any visible debris. This foundational action is crucial as it prepares the tub for thorough cleaning. By eliminating water and debris first, you create an environment where the cleaning process can be more effective, allowing access to all surfaces of the tub for scrubbing and disinfection. Starting with a clear tub enables more comprehensive scrubbing and disinfecting of any surfaces that may have been in contact with feet or soak solutions. Cleaning without first removing debris might spread contaminants around or prevent proper disinfection, as some cleaning agents might not penetrate effectively if there are residues or particulate matter present. The subsequent steps, such as scrubbing with a disinfectant, rinsing, and air drying, are also important but depend on the initial task of draining and clearing the tub of debris to ensure they are carried out effectively.

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://psionlinemanicurist.examzify.com>

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