

# Senior Level Nail Technology 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,**

**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 from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.**

**SAMPLE**

# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>17</b>

# 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!**

SAMPLE

## Questions

- 1. How should Onychoptosis be treated during a nail service?**
  - A. Perform a manicure only**
  - B. No service on affected nails**
  - C. Apply a strengthening treatment**
  - D. Use a nail hardener**
- 2. How can improper filing technique damage the nail?**
  - A. It can lead to artificial nail lift**
  - B. It can result in splitting, peeling, or weakening of the nail**
  - C. It does not typically cause any damage**
  - D. It can enhance nail strength**
- 3. What condition describes increased curvature of the nail, commonly known as claw nails?**
  - A. Pterygium**
  - B. Onychogryposis**
  - C. Leuconychia**
  - D. Onychia**
- 4. Which condition is associated with white scaly patches and yellow streaks under the nail plate?**
  - A. Onychorrhexis**
  - B. Onychomycosis**
  - C. Pincer nails**
  - D. Onychophagy**
- 5. What material is the hose for the compressor typically made of?**
  - A. Metal tubing**
  - B. Flexible rubber or plastic tube**
  - C. Silicone**
  - D. Glass tubing**



- 6. What type of bit is primarily used for cutting through hard products in nail enhancement?**
- A. Diamond Bit**
  - B. Carbide Bit**
  - C. Buffing Bit**
  - D. Sanding Band**
- 7. What is the first step in the process of color gel layering?**
- A. Apply color layers**
  - B. Cure the color layers**
  - C. Apply a base coat**
  - D. Finish with a top coat**
- 8. What is the purpose of a priming agent in nail enhancements?**
- A. To add color to the enhancement**
  - B. To create adhesion between the nail plate and enhancement**
  - C. To slow down curing time**
  - D. To remove contaminants from the nail**
- 9. Which monomer is primarily used in acrylic liquids?**
- A. Ethyl methacrylate**
  - B. Methyl acrylate**
  - C. Butyl methacrylate**
  - D. Propyl methacrylate**
- 10. What implement can be used to treat corrugations on the nail?**
- A. Nail clipper**
  - B. Nail buffer**
  - C. Cuticle pusher**
  - D. Nail file**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

**SAMPLE**

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

**1. How should Onychoptosis be treated during a nail service?**

- A. Perform a manicure only
- B. No service on affected nails**
- C. Apply a strengthening treatment
- D. Use a nail hardener

Onychoptosis refers to the shedding of nails or loss of nails. In a nail service context, it's crucial to prioritize the health of the affected area, as treating nails that are damaged or compromised may exacerbate the condition. Performing services on nails that are experiencing onychoptosis can cause further trauma or introduce irritants, potentially leading to infection or additional damage. When the integrity of the nail is compromised, it's generally recommended to refrain from any salon services on the affected nails. This approach allows for proper healing and minimizes the risk of complications. Non-invasive care, such as keeping the nails clean and dry, is typically suggested, along with possible consultation with a medical professional if the condition persists or shows signs of infection.

**2. How can improper filing technique damage the nail?**

- A. It can lead to artificial nail lift
- B. It can result in splitting, peeling, or weakening of the nail**
- C. It does not typically cause any damage
- D. It can enhance nail strength

Improper filing technique can indeed result in splitting, peeling, or weakening of the nail. This is primarily due to the fact that filing with too much pressure, in the wrong direction, or using a file that is too coarse can create microtears in the nail's structure. When nails are filed incorrectly, the layers of the nail can become damaged, leading to separation and a tendency for the nail to break or peel away. It's important to use a gentle touch and file in a consistent, smooth manner to maintain the integrity of the nail plate. The other options suggest that improper filing can enhance nail strength or that it causes no damage at all, both of which do not reflect the reality of what can happen. Additionally, while improper filing techniques may potentially affect artificial nails, those outcomes are not as directly related to the natural properties of the nail as the risk of splitting and weakening.

**3. What condition describes increased curvature of the nail, commonly known as claw nails?**

- A. Pterygium**
- B. Onychogryposis**
- C. Leuconychia**
- D. Onychia**

The condition characterized by increased curvature of the nail, commonly referred to as claw nails, is onychogryposis. This condition typically results in the nails becoming thickened and having an exaggerated curve, resembling a claw. It can be caused by various factors, including trauma, fungal infections, or age-related changes, and is most commonly seen in older adults. Pterygium, on the other hand, refers to a condition where the skin extends over the nail plate, potentially disrupting normal nail growth and appearance, but does not specifically describe the curvature of the nail. Leuconychia involves the appearance of white spots or discoloration on the nails, not associated with curvature. Onychia refers to inflammation of the nail matrix, which can affect the nail's overall health and growth but does not specifically relate to increases in curvature. Thus, onychogryposis is the term that directly applies to the increased curvature condition known as claw nails.

**4. Which condition is associated with white scaly patches and yellow streaks under the nail plate?**

- A. Onychorrhexis**
- B. Onychomycosis**
- C. Pincer nails**
- D. Onychophagy**

The condition associated with white scaly patches and yellow streaks under the nail plate is onychomycosis. This condition refers to a fungal infection of the nails, which can manifest in various ways, including discoloration such as yellow streaks, and texture changes leading to the appearance of white scaly patches on the surface of the nail. The fungus invades the nail and the surrounding tissue, leading to these visual signs of infection. Onychomycosis can result in thickening, distortion, and brittleness of the nail, and it often requires specific antifungal treatments to address effectively. The presence of yellow streaks indicates that the infection is affecting the nail's integrity, while the scaly patches reflect the fungal colonization and disruption of the nail's normal appearance and function. Understanding the symptoms associated with onychomycosis is vital for nail technicians, as it helps in identifying and recommending appropriate care or referral for treatment.

**5. What material is the hose for the compressor typically made of?**

**A. Metal tubing**

**B. Flexible rubber or plastic tube**

**C. Silicone**

**D. Glass tubing**

The hose for the compressor is typically made of a flexible rubber or plastic tube due to its ability to withstand pressure while maintaining flexibility and durability. This material is ideal because it allows for easy movement and manipulation, making it suitable for various applications. Rubber and plastic also have good resistance to wear and tear, ensuring a longer lifespan even with frequent use. In contrast, metal tubing, while strong, can be rigid and less practical for dynamic applications where movement is necessary. Silicone is often used in applications requiring heat resistance and flexibility but may not provide the same structural integrity under high pressure as rubber or plastic. Glass tubing lacks the necessary flexibility and is more prone to breakage, making it unsuitable for the high-pressure environment of a compressor hose.

**6. What type of bit is primarily used for cutting through hard products in nail enhancement?**

**A. Diamond Bit**

**B. Carbide Bit**

**C. Buffing Bit**

**D. Sanding Band**

The correct choice is carbide bit. Carbide bits are specifically designed for cutting through hard products used in nail enhancements, such as acrylics and hard gel materials. They are made from tungsten carbide, which provides a tough, durable surface that is effective for both shaping and reducing bulk on the nails. This type of bit is ideal for professional nail technicians who require precision and efficiency when working with hard materials, allowing them to achieve smooth, precise results. In contrast, other bits serve different purposes. Diamond bits, while also effective for cutting and shaping, are usually used for finer detail work and polishing rather than for heavy-duty cutting through thick materials. Buffing bits are intended for polishing and finishing the surface of the nails, not for cutting or drilling. Sanding bands are used for smoothing and refining the nail surface but are not specifically designed for cutting through hard enhancement products like a carbide bit. Thus, for cutting through hard products effectively, a carbide bit is the preferred choice.

**7. What is the first step in the process of color gel layering?**

- A. Apply color layers**
- B. Cure the color layers**
- C. Apply a base coat**
- D. Finish with a top coat**

The first step in the process of color gel layering is to apply a base coat. This foundational layer serves multiple important purposes. It creates a smooth surface for the subsequent colors, helps to enhance the adhesion of the color gel to the natural nail, and provides a protective barrier that helps prevent chipping and improves durability. Without this initial base coat, the color layers may not adhere properly, which could lead to peeling and a less professional finish. Additionally, the base coat can also help protect the natural nail from potential staining caused by colored gels, particularly darker hues. This step is crucial in ensuring a long-lasting and aesthetically pleasing manicure. In contrast, applying color layers, curing the color layers, and finishing with a top coat are all steps that follow the initial application of the base coat in the gel layering process. Each plays a role in building the final look but cannot occur until the base coat is correctly applied.

**8. What is the purpose of a priming agent in nail enhancements?**

- A. To add color to the enhancement**
- B. To create adhesion between the nail plate and enhancement**
- C. To slow down curing time**
- D. To remove contaminants from the nail**

A priming agent serves primarily to create adhesion between the natural nail plate and the nail enhancement. This is crucial for the longevity and durability of the enhancement, as a strong bond prevents lifting and peeling. The priming agent often contains ingredients that dehydrate the nail surface and prepare it for the application of subsequent layers, ensuring that the enhancement adheres well. While other options present ideas related to nail enhancements, they do not fulfill the primary function of a priming agent. For instance, adding color is not part of a priming agent's purpose, as that relates more to the pigments used in the enhancement products themselves. Similarly, while some products can influence curing time, priming agents are not designed for this function. Lastly, while cleaning the nail to remove contaminants is an important step in the nail application process, it is typically handled by a separate cleansing product rather than a priming agent. Thus, the role of a priming agent is distinctly focused on promoting strong adhesion for successful nail enhancements.



**9. Which monomer is primarily used in acrylic liquids?**

- A. Ethyl methacrylate**
- B. Methyl acrylate**
- C. Butyl methacrylate**
- D. Propyl methacrylate**

The primary monomer used in acrylic liquids is ethyl methacrylate. This compound is favored in the nails industry because it has a balance of properties that provide good adhesion, flexibility, and durability, making it particularly suitable for forming strong and long-lasting enhancements on the natural nail. Ethyl methacrylate polymerizes effectively when mixed with the appropriate initiators (like a catalyst) and is less prone to lifting compared to some of the alternative monomers. Other monomers, while they can be used to create acrylics, do not typically exhibit the same level of compatibility and performance as ethyl methacrylate within the context of nail technology. For example, methyl acrylate, although a strong adhesive, is generally considered more aggressive on the natural nail and can cause irritation, leading to its decreased use in professional nail applications. Similarly, butyl methacrylate and propyl methacrylate, while still functional, do not have the same favorable characteristics as ethyl methacrylate and are less commonly seen in high-quality acrylic nail products. Thus, ethyl methacrylate's unique attributes make it the preferred choice for creating acrylic nail systems that are effective in both performance and user satisfaction.

**10. What implement can be used to treat corrugations on the nail?**

- A. Nail clipper**
- B. Nail buffer**
- C. Cuticle pusher**
- D. Nail file**

Using a nail buffer to treat corrugations on the nail is effective because a buffer smooths and polishes the surface of the nail. Corrugations—those ridges or grooves on the nail—can often be improved by buffing, as it helps to gently smooth out unevenness and enhance the nail's appearance. Buffers often have varying grits, allowing for a more controlled approach to addressing surface imperfections. In contrast, other implements such as nail clippers, cuticle pushers, and nail files serve different purposes. Nail clippers are designed for trimming the length of the nails, while cuticle pushers are primarily used for caring for the cuticles and do not address surface irregularities. Nail files can help shape the edges of the nails but are not specifically designed for smoothing out ridges like a buffer is. Therefore, a nail buffer is the most appropriate tool for effectively managing corrugations on the nail.

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

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