



NATIONAL BARBER  
WRITTEN EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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The National Barber examination is the national licensure examination for Barbers, which is developed and administered by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC). This Candidate Information Bulletin includes the content outline covered by the NIC National Barber examination, sample questions and answers. The time allowed for the Barber written examination is 90 minutes.

**SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS**  
**20 Questions**

**Infection Control and Safe Practices**

- ◇ Bacteriology
  - Types of bacteria
  - Growth and reproduction
- ◇ Viruses
  - Types
  - Transmission
- ◇ Immunity
- ◇ Parasites
- ◇ Methods of infection control
  - Sterilization
  - Disinfection
  - Sanitation
- ◇ Federal Regulations and Universal Precautions

**Tools, Implements and Equipment**

- ◇ Safe usage
- ◇ Care and maintenance

**Anatomy and Physiology**

- ◇ Cells
- ◇ Tissues
- ◇ Organs
- ◇ Physiological systems
  - Skeletal system
  - Muscular system
  - Nervous system
  - Circulatory system

**Chemistry**

- ◇ Water
- ◇ Shampoos and conditioners
- ◇ Chemical agents (e.g. chemical waving, chemical relaxing, hair coloring)
- ◇ Styling aids

**Electricity and Light**

- ◇ Types of electric current
- ◇ Safety devices
- ◇ Electrotherapy
  - Modalities (e.g., high frequency, faradic)
  - Light therapy

**Skin Histology**

- ◇ Anatomy of the skin
  - Layers of the skin
  - Glands of the skin
  - Types of nerves in the skin
  - Skin color
- ◇ Functions of the skin
- ◇ Disorders of the skin

**Hair and Scalp**

- ◇ Structure and growth of the hair
- ◇ Disorders of the hair
- ◇ Disorders of the scalp

**FACIAL AND SHAVING SERVICES**  
**8 Questions**

**Draping Procedures Related to Facial and Shaving Services**

**Facial Treatments**

- ◇ Massage manipulations
- ◇ Equipment
- ◇ Facials
  - Preparing the client
  - Skin types
  - Skin analysis
  - Products
  - Procedures

**Shaving Procedures and Facial Hair Design**

- ◇ Tools and equipment
- ◇ Facial shaving
  - Preparing the facial hair for service
  - Positions and strokes
- ◇ Mustaches and beards
  - Design
  - Procedures

**HAIR CARE SERVICES**  
**10 Questions**

**Client Consultation**

- ◇ Scalp analysis
- ◇ Hair analysis
  - Texture
  - Density
  - Porosity
  - Elasticity
  - Color
  - Resistant hair

**Draping Procedures Related to Shampooing and Haircutting**

**Haircutting and Styling**

- ◇ Basic principles
  - Facial shapes
  - Head forms
- ◇ Elements of design
  - Shape
  - Line
  - Wave pattern/texture
  - Proportion and balance
  - Color

- ◇ Haircutting methods and procedures
  - Shears
  - Clippers
  - Razor
  - Tapering and fading
  - Blending and texturing
  - Outline/neck shave
- ◇ Hair styling methods
  - Blow-dry styling
  - Thermal styling
  - Wet-hair styling

- ◇ Head shaving
  - Preparation
  - Safety
- ◇ Hairpieces
  - Materials (i.e., human or synthetic)
  - Sizing
  - Attachment methods
  - Styling
  - Maintenance

**Treatment of the Hair and Scalp**

- ◇ Shampoo service
  - Product selection
  - Procedures
- ◇ Scalp treatments
  - Product selection
  - Equipment
  - Procedures

**CHEMICAL SERVICES**  
**12 Questions**

**Draping Procedures Related to Chemical Services**

**Safety Procedures Related to Chemical Services**

**Performing Client Consultation**

- ◇ Scalp analysis
- ◇ Hair analysis
  - Texture
  - Density
  - Porosity
  - Elasticity
  - Color
  - Resistant hair
- ◇ Record keeping

**Chemical Texture Services**

- ◇ Chemical waving (e.g. permanent waving)
  - Procedures
  - Products
- ◇ Reformation curls
  - Procedures
  - Products
- ◇ Chemical hair relaxing
  - Procedures
  - Products

**Haircolor and Lightener**

- ◇ Color theory
  - Law of color
  - Tone
  - Level
- ◇ Haircoloring
  - Procedures
  - Products
- ◇ Hair Lightener
  - Procedures
  - Products
- ◇ Mustaches and beards
  - Procedures
  - Products

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Barber Written Examination. Each question is followed by four answer choices. Only one choice is correct. Correct answers are listed following the sample questions.

1. Anthrax and tetanus bacilli form which of the following types of spore?
  - a. Mitosis
  - b. Flagella
  - c. Spherical
  - d. Infectious
2. All French style shears
  - a. are cobalt metal.
  - b. have a finger brace.
  - c. are made in France.
  - d. have tight pivots.
3. Prior to a shaving service the headrest must be
  - a. washed and dried.
  - b. disinfected and covered.
  - c. washed and removed.
  - d. sanitized and sterilized.
4. To avoid damage to muscle tissue, the movements of a massage are directed
  - a. away from the origin of the muscle.
  - b. toward the origin of the muscle.
  - c. around the origin of the muscle.
  - d. above the origin of the muscle.

5. Which of the following can permanently relieve split ends?
  - a. Applying oil to the ends
  - b. Using a styling gel on the ends
  - c. Moistening the ends
  - d. Cutting the ends
6. The diameter of a single strand of hair is also called
  - a. growth pattern.
  - b. porosity.
  - c. density.
  - d. texture.
7. What should be performed **FIRST** before applying permanent hair color?
  - a. Strand test
  - b. Patch test
  - c. Curl test
  - d. Texture test
8. Before sodium hydroxide processing, hair should be analyzed to determine its
  - a. acidity.
  - b. alkalinity.
  - c. texture, porosity and elasticity.
  - d. density, color and end bonds.

**BARBER REFERENCES**

- Milady's Standard Textbook of Professional Barbering. 2006  
 Milady  
 5 Maxwell Drive  
 Clifton Park, NY 12065  
 (800) 347-7707  
[www.Milady.com](http://www.Milady.com)
- Milady's Standard Textbook of Professional Barber-Styling Rev. Ed. 1999  
 Milady  
 5 Maxwell Drive  
 Clifton Park, NY 12065  
 (800) 347-7707  
[www.Milady.com](http://www.Milady.com)
- NIC Health and Safety Standards  
 NIC, Inc., October 2002  
[www.nictesting.org](http://www.nictesting.org)

**Answers**

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. b | 7. b |
| 2. b | 5. d | 8. c |
| 3. b | 6. d |      |