

PSI INDIANA COSMETOLOGY PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://indianacosmetology.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	15

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 happens if you do not pay your child support as a cosmetology professional?**
 - A. Your license may be renewed without issues
 - B. It can be grounds for license renewal denial
 - C. You will receive a fine
 - D. Your salon may have to shut down
- 2. What type of nail disorder is characterized by nails that are unusually thick or discolored?**
 - A. Hangnail
 - B. Tubular nail disorder
 - C. Onychomycosis
 - D. Matrix injury
- 3. Which condition does NOT benefit from a clay mask?**
 - A. Oily skin
 - B. Aging skin
 - C. Acne-prone skin
 - D. Dry skin
- 4. What is the most common volume of developer used in hair color?**
 - A. 10 volume
 - B. 20 volume
 - C. 30 volume
 - D. 40 volume
- 5. What is a bulla?**
 - A. Small dark spot
 - B. Large blister containing watery fluid
 - C. Inflamed area on the skin
 - D. Raised mole

- 6. Which type of makeup is recommended for special occasions that involve a lot of photographs?**
- A. Matte colors
 - B. Shimmering colors
 - C. Bright colors
 - D. Neutral tones
- 7. What typically causes leukonychia?**
- A. Genetics
 - B. Injury or trauma
 - C. Fungal infection
 - D. Dryness
- 8. Which of the following is not a type of relaxer?**
- A. Lanthionine relaxers
 - B. Wax
 - C. Sodium hydroxide relaxers
 - D. Amino acid relaxers
- 9. What is the purpose of a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)?**
- A. To advertise products in salons
 - B. To provide information on handling substances safely
 - C. To list salon prices
 - D. To evaluate employee performance
- 10. What is a variation of friction massage mainly used on arms and legs?**
- A. Wringing
 - B. Petrissage
 - C. Tapotement
 - D. Effleurage

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What happens if you do not pay your child support as a cosmetology professional?

- A. Your license may be renewed without issues
- B. It can be grounds for license renewal denial**
- C. You will receive a fine
- D. Your salon may have to shut down

If you fail to pay your child support as a cosmetology professional, it can indeed be grounds for license renewal denial. In many states, including Indiana, there are legal obligations that require individuals to meet their financial responsibilities, such as child support. When these obligations are not met, it can lead to consequences that affect professional licenses, including that of cosmetologists. Licensing boards may have rules in place that stipulate that outstanding child support payments can result in the inability to renew a professional license until the payments are current. This serves not only as a legal enforcement mechanism but also as a measure to promote responsible behavior among professionals in the field. While it's true that failing to pay child support could potentially lead to fines or other legal repercussions, the most direct and applicable consequence in the context of license renewal for cosmetologists is the denial of that renewal. Such measures are designed to encourage compliance with child support obligations, ensuring that individuals are fulfilling their responsibilities while maintaining their professional licenses.

2. What type of nail disorder is characterized by nails that are unusually thick or discolored?

- A. Hangnail
- B. Tubular nail disorder**
- C. Onychomycosis
- D. Matrix injury

The correct answer focuses on the condition known as tubular nail disorder, which is characterized by nails that exhibit unusual thickness or discoloration. Tubular nail disorder involves structural anomalies in the nail, leading to its thickened appearance. This disorder can result from genetic factors or environmental influences and is important to recognize in a cosmetology context, as it can affect nail care and beauty treatments. In contrast, onychomycosis, while it indeed causes discoloration and can lead to thick nails, primarily refers to a fungal infection rather than a structural disorder. Hangnails are about a tear or split in the skin near the nail, not the nail itself. A matrix injury, which involves damage to the nail's growth area, could lead to irregularities as well, but it doesn't specifically describe the thickening or discoloration typically seen in tubular nail disorders. Understanding these distinctions helps in diagnosing and treating various nail conditions effectively in a cosmetology practice.

3. Which condition does NOT benefit from a clay mask?

- A. Oily skin
- B. Aging skin
- C. Acne-prone skin
- D. Dry skin**

Clay masks are known for their ability to absorb excess oil and draw impurities from the skin. As a result, they are particularly beneficial for conditions like oily and acne-prone skin because they help control shine and reduce breakouts by unclogging pores. For aging skin, while clay masks can provide some benefits like mild exfoliation and improving texture, they may not be the most suitable choice. Aging skin often requires hydration, nourishment, and more emollient properties that are usually found in cream-based masks or hydrating masks. Clay masks can sometimes leave the skin feeling dry or tight, which may not be ideal for those dealing with signs of aging. In the case of dry skin, a clay mask would not be beneficial because it can further strip moisture from the skin. Dry skin typically requires products that provide hydration and soothe irritation, making the absorbent nature of clay masks inappropriate for this condition. Therefore, dry skin does not benefit from a clay mask as it needs more nourishing treatments rather than those that might exacerbate the lack of moisture.

4. What is the most common volume of developer used in hair color?

- A. 10 volume
- B. 20 volume**
- C. 30 volume
- D. 40 volume

The most common volume of developer used in hair color is 20 volume. This is because 20 volume developer is ideal for standard coloring processes, as it lifts the hair color by one to two levels while also providing the necessary strength to activate the color without causing excessive damage. It contains hydrogen peroxide at a concentration that is effective for most hair types and is versatile enough for both permanent color applications and achieving gray coverage. Higher volumes, such as 30 and 40, are used for more significant lifts and specific techniques like high-lift coloring or for lighter shades, but they can lead to more damage because of the stronger oxidative effect. Conversely, 10 volume is typically used for deposit-only applications or for very subtle lifting, making it less common for general coloring needs compared to 20 volume. This balance of effectiveness and gentleness makes 20 volume the most frequently used developer in hair coloring.

5. What is a bulla?

- A. Small dark spot
- B. Large blister containing watery fluid**
- C. Inflamed area on the skin
- D. Raised mole

A bulla is defined as a large blister that contains watery fluid. This condition typically arises when there is a significant accumulation of fluid between the upper layers of the skin, often as a result of friction, burns, or other irritants. Bulla can vary in size, but they are generally larger than other types of blisters, such as vesicles. Understanding the context of skin lesions is crucial in cosmetology, as this knowledge aids professionals in recognizing conditions that might affect their clients. For instance, identifying the characteristics of a bulla can help in deciding the appropriate course of treatment or recommending products that will not aggravate the condition.

6. Which type of makeup is recommended for special occasions that involve a lot of photographs?

- A. Matte colors**
- B. Shimmering colors
- C. Bright colors
- D. Neutral tones

Matte colors are often recommended for special occasions that involve a lot of photographs because they tend to reduce glare and shine that can be problematic in flash photography. When the skin has a shiny appearance, it can reflect light in a way that may distort the look of makeup, making it appear uneven or overly shiny in pictures. Matte finishes help in providing a smoother, more even photograph, as they absorb light rather than reflect it. This finish can help enhance the face's features without the risk of appearing overly shiny or emphasized, giving a more polished and sophisticated look that's ideal for the camera. While other options, like shimmering colors, can offer a beautiful radiant look in person, they may not translate as effectively in images, leading to a more uneven appearance. Similarly, bright colors may stand out in daily life but could overwhelm in photographs, while neutral tones, while versatile, may lack the impact necessary for special occasions captured on camera.

7. What typically causes leukonychia?

- A. Genetics
- B. Injury or trauma**
- C. Fungal infection
- D. Dryness

Leukonychia, characterized by the appearance of white spots or lines on the nails, is most commonly caused by injury or trauma to the nail matrix. When the nail matrix sustains damage, it can result in abnormalities in nail growth, leading to the formation of these white areas. This can occur from various forms of trauma, such as hitting the nail or excessive pressure, which disrupts the production of the nail's keratin. While genetics, fungal infections, and dryness can contribute to nail conditions, they are not the primary causes of leukonychia. Genetic predispositions may lead to different nail abnormalities, and fungal infections typically present with discoloration or changes in nail texture rather than isolated white spots. Dryness can affect the overall health of the nails but does not specifically lead to leukonychia. Therefore, injury or trauma stands out as the most frequent and direct cause of this condition.

8. Which of the following is not a type of relaxer?

- A. Lanthionine relaxers
- B. Wax**
- C. Sodium hydroxide relaxers
- D. Amino acid relaxers

In the context of hair care, relaxers are products specifically formulated to straighten curly or wavy hair, making it more manageable. Lanthionine, sodium hydroxide, and amino acid relaxers are all recognized types of relaxers, each using different active ingredients to alter the hair's structure. Lanthionine relaxers work by reducing the disulfide bonds in the hair, resulting in a straighter texture. Sodium hydroxide relaxers, known for their strong chemical properties, break down the protein structure in the hair, allowing for significant straightening. Amino acid relaxers, which are milder, utilize amino acids to achieve a smoother look while being less damaging to the hair. On the other hand, wax is not a relaxer. Rather, it is typically used for styling purposes, aiding in defining, shaping, and holding hair in place. It does not chemically alter the hair structure to achieve straightness and therefore does not fit the definition of a relaxer. This distinction clarifies why wax is the correct answer as the option that does not belong to the category of hair relaxers.

9. What is the purpose of a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)?

- A. To advertise products in salons
- B. To provide information on handling substances safely**
- C. To list salon prices
- D. To evaluate employee performance

The purpose of a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), now commonly referred to as a Safety Data Sheet (SDS), is to provide essential information regarding the safe handling, use, and storage of chemicals and substances that may be encountered in a salon or workplace. This documentation includes details about potential hazards, necessary personal protective equipment, first aid measures, and proper procedures for dealing with spills or reactions. Understanding and utilizing the information found in an MSDS is crucial for ensuring a safe working environment, preventing accidents, and complying with regulatory requirements. This information is vital for salon workers who regularly deal with various chemicals in hair care products, nail treatments, and cleaning supplies. Access to clear and concise safety guidelines helps mitigate risks associated with exposure to hazardous substances. In contrast, the other options do not emphasize safety or the operational aspects of handling materials, making them irrelevant in this context.

10. What is a variation of friction massage mainly used on arms and legs?

- A. Wringing**
- B. Petrissage
- C. Tapotement
- D. Effleurage

Wringing is the correct answer because it is a type of friction massage that involves a vigorous, back-and-forth movement, typically utilized on the arms and legs. This technique promotes circulation and helps to loosen muscles and connective tissue. Wringing is characterized by a technique where the skin is grasped and twisted, creating a stimulating effect that is especially useful for larger muscle groups. While other techniques like petrissage, tapotement, and effleurage are effective for various massage purposes, they differ in their application and effects. Petrissage involves kneading and lifting of the muscles to enhance relaxation and blood flow, making it a different technique from the focused friction movements of wringing. Tapotement includes rhythmic tapping, hacking, or cupping and is generally more stimulating than friction-based techniques. Effleurage is a gentle, gliding stroke used at the beginning and end of a massage to prepare the body and promote relaxation. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for applying the correct technique based on the desired outcome of the massage.

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://indianacosmetology.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE