



NATIONAL ESTHETICS  
WRITTEN PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)

*Please visit your examination provider's website for the most current bulletin prior to testing.*

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**The National Esthetics Written Practical Examination is the licensure examination for Estheticians, which is developed by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC). This bulletin contains IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the examination, including content outline covered by the Written Practical examination, sample questions and answers, and references. The time allowed for the Esthetics Written Practical Examination is 120 minutes.**

**PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY**

For each NIC National Written Practical Examination, there are TWO (2) parts to every Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) stored as separate documents:

- **Examination Content and Important Instructions** – This provides information about the scope of content covered in the Written Practical examination and information and guidelines related to administration of the Written Practical examination.
- **References** – This provides a list of references used to develop and support the content covered in the examination. The references are always the same for the Theory, Written Practical, and Practical examinations.

**BE CERTAIN TO DOWNLOAD AND/OR PRINT AND REVIEW BOTH DOCUMENTS THAT MAKE UP THE NIC EXAMINATION CIB.**

**PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY!**

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**

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- Do not leave the examination area without permission. Permission must be obtained to leave the examination area for any reason, including restroom usage or at the completion of the examination. Picture ID is required for re-entry into examination.
- With the exception of verbal instructions, the proctors and examination administration personnel are not allowed to communicate with candidates.
- If you have an emergency situation please notify the proctor.
- The following provides examples of materials and actions that are prohibited during the examination administration:
  - Possession of cellular phones, watches (of any kind), pagers, tablets, computers, projectors, cameras, any other electronic or recording devices, printed materials, or handwritten notes.
  - Communicating to other candidates.
  - Exhibiting disruptive behavior.
    - *The above referenced items or actions are not an exhaustive list. Failure to comply with any of these conditions or exhibiting ANY behavior that suggests an effort to cheat will result in your immediate dismissal from the examination and your actions reported to the proper authorities.*

## ESTHETICS WRITTEN PRACTICAL EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Esthetics Written Practical Examination. The percentages represent the percentage of items from each domain. The examination is comprised of 70 items, of which 60 items are weighted and contribute to the candidate's final score.

### Domain I: SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS: 35%

- A. Apply knowledge of infection control procedures
- B. Apply knowledge of safety procedures and guidelines related to:
  - 1. Standard (Universal) Precautions
  - 2. Blood exposure procedures
  - 3. Handling of chemicals
- C. Recognize and understand skin disorders and diseases related to:
  - 1. Disorders of the sebaceous gland (e.g., acne, millia, seborrhea)
  - 2. Disorders of the sudoriferous gland (e.g., hyperhidrosis, bromhidrosis, anhidrosis)
  - 3. Contagious diseases (e.g., bacterial conjunctivitis, herpes simplex, tinea)
  - 4. Skin inflammations (e.g., dermatitis, eczema, rosacea)
  - 5. Skin pigmentation (i.e., hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation)
  - 6. Skin growths (e.g., skin tags, moles, keratoma)
  - 7. Skin cancers (i.e., basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, melanoma)
- D. Understanding function and composition of the hair related to:
  - 1. Abnormal hair growth (e.g., hirsutism, hypertrichosis)
- E. Understanding basic chemistry as related to:
  - 1. Function (e.g., hydration, protection, cleanse)
  - 2. Acidity/Alkalinity (i.e., pH)

### Domain II: SKIN CARE AND SERVICES: 65%

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of performing a client consultation and documentation
- B. Apply knowledge of client protection (i.e., draping of head and body)
- C. Skin analysis (e.g., Fitzpatrick skin types/conditions/characteristics)
- D. Contraindications for skin services
- E. Treatment protocol
- F. Demonstrate an understanding of cleansing procedures
- G. Demonstrate an understanding of steaming procedures
- H. Demonstrate an understanding of exfoliation procedures (i.e., chemical, mechanical/manual)
- I. Demonstrate a basic understanding of massage movements
- J. Demonstrate an understanding of methods of extraction
- K. Demonstrate an understanding of the functions and applications of masks
- L. Demonstrate an understanding of the conclusion of facial services
- M. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the use of electrical equipment used in skin services
- N. Demonstrate an understanding of makeup as related to:
  - 1. Product selection (e.g., lipstick, foundation)
  - 2. Application (e.g., contouring, highlighting, blending)
  - 3. Safety (e.g., bracing)
- O. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of other services related to:
  - 1. Facial services (e.g., aromatherapy, pre- and post-surgical/medical treatments, ultrasonic)
  - 2. Body treatments (body wraps, body scrubs, sunless tanning)

3. Eyelash and eyebrow services (e.g., lash and brow tinting, artificial lashes, lash lifting/perming)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of hair removal methods and procedures (i.e., waxing, tweezing)

## ESTHETICS SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Esthetics Written Practical Examination. Correct answers (keys) are listed following the sample questions.

1. During extractions, the implement falls to the floor. What should the practitioner do next?
  - (A) Pick up the implement, wash it, and continue with extractions
  - (B) Pick up the implement, place it in the “items to be disinfected” container, replace gloves, and continue with extractions
  - (C) Pick up the implement, place it on the workstation, wash hands, and continue with extractions
  - (D) Stop the service, disinfect the entire work area, replace gloves, and continue with extractions
  
2. An adolescent entering puberty has inquired about getting rid of blackheads and milia. The **MOST** effective way to clear up skin is
  - (A) the sale of multiple skin care products.
  - (B) daily treatments within the salon.
  - (C) the removal and cleansing of blemishes.
  - (D) chemicals and laser treatments.
  
3. When analyzing the skin through a Wood’s lamp, hyperpigmentation will appear
  - (A) blue.
  - (B) yellow.
  - (C) orange.
  - (D) brown.
  
4. During the consultation, a client indicates they have vitiligo. How does this appear on the skin?



5. Select all images that show improper or no bracing during a makeup application.



Answers	
1.	B
2.	C
3.	D
4.	C
5.	C, E