



NATIONAL MICROPIGMENTATION  
WRITTEN EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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The National Micropigmentation examination is the national licensure examination for Micropigmentation, 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 Micropigmentation examination, sample questions and answers. The time allowed for the Micropigmentation written examination is 90 minutes.

**SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS**  
47%

**Infection Control**

- ◇ Pathology
  - Microbiology
- ◇ Prevention of cross contamination and disease transmission procedures
  - Levels of infection control
  - Personal immunization
  - OSHA bloodborne pathogen standards and universal precautions

**Structure of the Skin**

- ◇ Epidermis
- ◇ Dermis

**Basic Knowledge of Human Physiology/Anatomy**

- ◇ Nervous system
  - Sensory
  - Motor
- ◇ Vascular system
  - Blood
  - Lymph
- ◇ Muscles of the head and face
- ◇ Glands of the eye

**Knowledge and Recognition of Disorders, Anomalies, & Diseases of the Skin**

**Safe Use and Storage of Equipment and Supplies**

- ◇ Documentation
  - Material safety data sheets (MSDS)
  - Manufacturer's instructions
  - Exposure control plans
- ◇ Properties of pigment
- ◇ Single-use supplies
- ◇ Work area setup

**MICROPIGMENTATION PROCEDURES**  
43%

**Conducting a Client Consultation**

- ◇ Record keeping and documentation
  - Client record
  - Informed consent
  - Photo documentation
- ◇ Client consultation
  - Procedure and expectations
  - Skin typing/classification
  - Contraindications
  - Allergies
- ◇ Post care instructions

**Skin Preparation**

- ◇ Selection of appropriate antiseptic
- ◇ Hair removal procedures
- ◇ Specific preparation for eye and lip procedures
- ◇ Topical anesthetic

**Pre-application Procedure for Client Approval**

- ◇ Placement of design, pattern, or shape on client
- ◇ Drawing of design, pattern, or shape on client
  - Appropriate materials
  - Color selection
  - Shading/tinting

**Characteristics of Different Types of Equipment**

- ◇ Non-motorized
- ◇ Motorized
- ◇ Other

**Micropigmentation Application Procedures**

- ◇ Lining
- ◇ Shading
- ◇ Conclusion of treatment procedures

**CAUSES OF & RESPONSES TO TREATMENT CONSEQUENCES, SIDE EFFECTS, COMPLICATIONS**  
10%

**Consequences**

- ◇ Swelling
- ◇ Redness
- ◇ Discomfort

**Side Effects**

- ◇ Bruising
- ◇ Rashes and allergic reactions
- ◇ Nausea and vomiting

**Complications**

- ◇ Eye injuries
- ◇ Client dissatisfaction
- ◇ Infections and scarring
- ◇ Migration
- ◇ Cold sores

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

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

1. The purpose of material safety data sheets (MSDS) is to
  - a. inventory payments and who makes them.
  - b. record items sterilized in the autoclave.
  - c. compare machine manufacturer specs.
  - d. provide information about the properties of chemicals.
2. The subcutaneous layer of the skin consists of
  - a. hair follicles and pores.
  - b. scarred or grafted skin.
  - c. fat and connective tissue.
  - d. lesions or moles.

3. What is the muscle surrounding the eye?
  - a. Orbicularis femur
  - b. Orbicularis oris
  - c. Orbicularis oculi
  - d. Orbicularis orbit
4. If a customer has a large, dark mole, the technician should
  - a. apply color over it.
  - b. not apply color.
  - c. burn it off.
  - d. attempt to shave it.
5. When should the technician mix different colors of pigment brands together?
  - a. Always
  - b. Never
  - c. Only when using white
  - d. Only when using the same colors
6. If a client has cold sores, the technician should
  - a. sterilize the area with alcohol.
  - b. cover the area with antiseptic.
  - c. refer the client to a physician.
  - d. tell the client to return when the skin heals.
7. When should the client's lipstick color be removed for a lip procedure?
  - a. Before taking pre-procedure photo
  - b. After applying topical anesthetic
  - c. While applying pigment
  - d. Before scheduled appointment
8. When mixing red and yellow together, it becomes
  - a. pink.
  - b. flesh.
  - c. orange.
  - d. bright red.

9. If a technician encounters a client with excessive hair before a procedure, what is the best hair removal process?
- Laser
  - Shaving
  - Electrolysis
  - Chemical

**MICROPIGMENTATION  
REFERENCES**

*Milady's Standard Comprehensive Training for Estheticians Ed, 2003*  
Milady  
5 Maxwell Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(800) 347-7707  
[www.Milady.com](http://www.Milady.com)

10. Going too far outside of the vermilion line can result in a
- black line.
  - clown-like appearance.
  - blurring line.
  - small scar.

*Fundamentals of Permanent Cosmetics, Ed, 2005*  
Permanent Cosmetic Instructors Associates  
P.O. Box 453  
Tehachapi, California 93561  
(661) 822-1508  
[permanentcosmeticsinstructorsassoc.com](http://permanentcosmeticsinstructorsassoc.com)

Answers		
1. d.	5. b.	9. b.
2. c.	6. c.	10. b.
3. c.	7. a.	
4. b.	8. c.	

*Milady's Aesthetician Series Permanent Makeup: Tips and Techniques-Pamela Hill Ed, 2007*  
Milady  
5 Maxwell Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(800) 347-7707  
[www.Milady.com](http://www.Milady.com)

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

NIC Infection Control and Safety Standards  
Adopted 1998: Revised October 2002, Revised August 2014  
National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology  
[http://nictesting.org/memberinfo/NIC Health & Safety Standards - Aug 2014.pdf](http://nictesting.org/memberinfo/NIC_Health_&_Safety_Standards_-_Aug_2014.pdf)