



NATIONAL BARBER/BARBER STYLING  
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please visit your official examination provider website OR [www.nictesting.org](http://www.nictesting.org), for the most current bulletin prior to testing.

---

The National Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination is the licensure examination for Barber/Barber Styling, which is developed by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC).

This bulletin contains IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the NIC National Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination content and administration for Barber/Barber Styling core services and additional sections.

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

- **Important Instructions and Examination Core Domain Content**– This provides information and guidelines related to administration of the Practical examination and information about the scope of content covered in the core sections of the Practical examination.
- **Additional Services** – These provide information about additional sections offered by NIC for examination. Check with your State regulatory agency or examination administration vendor to determine which of these sections your State requires as part of their Practical examination.
- **References** – This provides a list of references used to develop and support the content covered in NIC examinations.  
The references will always be the same for both Theory and Practical examinations.

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

**PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY!**

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**

- 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 the examination.**
- Candidates are required to bring a supply kit for their own use.
  - It is the candidate's responsibility to make certain they have a sufficient quantity of supplies that have been properly cleaned and disinfected and that implements are in proper working order.
  - The kit will be used during the examination as dry storage and is considered part of the work area. The kit must be kept closed (e.g., completely zipped or lid tightly closed) except when removing materials for a particular service.
  - Candidates may remove items, supplies, etc., from the kit at any time, however nothing may be returned to the kit.
  - All examinations are administered in a testing environment.
  - Candidates are evaluated at all times. Continue working until you have completed the entire section or time has elapsed.

## NIC National Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination

---

- Due to standardization of the NIC National Examinations. Proctors and examiners are required to adhere to the following standards:
  - The verbal instructions will be read twice for each section of the examination.
  - With the exception of verbal instructions, the proctors are not allowed to communicate with candidates.
  - Examiners are not allowed to speak with candidates.Candidates requesting information during the examination will be told one of the following statements:
  - “Do the best you can with what you have available.”
  - “Do as you were taught.”
- If a candidate experiences an emergency situation, please notify the proctor by raising your hand.
- Candidates will be given time to set up the universal (also known as general) supplies they will use throughout the examination.
  - Each section of the examination has a maximum time allowance, with the exception of those specified as untimed sections.
  - Once candidates have completed all tasks in the section, please step back or turn the hand toward the examiner (in the case of nail sections) to indicate they have finished.
  - In the event that all candidates complete a section before the time has elapsed, the examiners will proceed to the next section of the examination.
  - When the timer goes off, all candidates must stop working and step back or turn the hand toward the examiner (in the case of nail services) IMMEDIATELY.
- During all phases of the examination, candidates must follow all appropriate public protection and infection control procedures and maintain a safe work area.
  - In the event of a blood exposure incident, candidates will be expected to follow the NIC Blood Exposure Procedure.  
**Failure to do so may result in your dismissal from the examination.**
    - *Be sure to contact your examination provider to obtain the most current version of, and any addendums, to the NIC Blood Exposure Procedure, OR go to [www.nictesting.org](http://www.nictesting.org) for a current downloadable copy.*
  - **If a candidate does not follow infection control procedures or allows the work area to become and remain unsafe, the result may be a failing score for the examination.**
- The following provides examples of materials and actions that are prohibited during the examination administration:
  - Possession of cellular phones, pagers, tablets, computers, projectors, cameras, or any other electronic or recording devices, printed materials, or handwritten notes.
  - Purses, bags, coats, hats, and any other personal items not directly needed to complete the examination, are not allowed.
  - Exhibiting disruptive behavior.
  - Communicating to other candidates or any examiner.
    - *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 the immediate dismissal from the examination and the candidate's actions reported to the proper authorities.*
  - **All supplies must be labeled in English.** When an original manufacturer's label is required, there can be NO handwritten or any other type of labeling. Original manufacturers' labels must have English and may also include other languages. All non-manufacturers created labels must be only in English.
    - Original manufacturer's labels are *required* for all disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
  - An EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal, and

## NIC National Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination

---

virucidal properties must be used. Please refer to the “*Suggested Examination Supplies*” section to see any further state specific requirements for supplies and products.

- Simulated products are *not* allowed for disinfectants and hand sanitizers.
- **NO AEROSOLS** are allowed in the testing environment
- Candidates are to perform all tasks, utilizing products and supplies, and as they were taught. There is however, a section titled “*Suggested Examination Supplies*” provided following the “Content Domains” section of this bulletin for items that a candidate may *possibly* utilize in a section.

### **NIC MODEL OR MANNEQUIN REQUIREMENTS**

---

**Please refer to your state specific guidelines for model and mannequin requirements.**

**If your state requires that you use a mannequin head(s):**

- Candidates who are required to use a mannequin head(s), it is the candidate’s responsibility to come prepared for the examination.
- Mannequin heads that are premarked or presectioned are not allowed for any part of the practical examination.
- Mannequin heads must be approved by the examination state/vendor prior to admittance into examination.

### **SPECIAL ATTENTION**

The following information is vital and specific to the NIC National Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination:

- Candidates will be evaluated on proper designation of materials that are disposed. Candidates are ***required*** to bring and use the following supplies for the appropriate disposal of materials:
  - Container labeled “**To be disinfected**”
  - Container labeled “**Soiled linens**”
  - Container labeled “**Trash**”
- If it is specified that there is **more than one client** represented for the purpose of this examination, a new client is introduced and must be prepared for during the course of the examination (see Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination Content Domains Sections).

**Candidates are expected to brace any time they are working around the eye and mouth areas.**

- Candidates are not allowed to label products as single-use items.
- Use of single-use products may result in a failing score for the examination.

## **BARBER/BARBER STYLING PRACTICAL EXAMINATION CONTENT DOMAIN SECTIONS**

---

*The scope of the National Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination includes 6 (six) core domain sections. The Core Domain Sections are based on the national job analysis and are noted in **bold**.*

1. **Work Area and Client Preparation, And Set Up of Supplies** (10 minutes)
2. **Haircutting** (30 minutes)
3. **Shaving with a Straight Razor** (Untimed)
4. Basic Facial (10 minutes) +
5. Blow Dry Styling (15 minutes) +
6. Thermal Curling (10 minutes) +
7. **Chemical Waving** (20 minutes)
8. **Virgin Hair Lightening and Haircolor Retouch** (20 minutes, in two 10-minute segments)
9. **Chemical Relaxing - Virgin Application and Retouch** (20 minutes, in two 10-minute segments)

**+Denotes Additional Sections for States that elect to test these sections. Administration of any of these sections will be performed in the numerical order outlined.**

## 1. WORK AREA AND CLIENT PREPARATION, AND SET UP OF SUPPLIES (10 minutes)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will prepare your work area for your client.”*

*“You will set up the universal supplies that you will use throughout your examination.”*

*“You will also set up supplies to perform a haircut.”*

*“You will prepare your client for services.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin set up.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 1.1 Disinfects all work areas completely with product labeled in English as EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant
- 1.2 Sanitizes hands with product labeled in English
- 1.3 Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- 1.4 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 1.5 Practices infection control procedures throughout section
- 1.6 Maintains safe work area throughout section
- 1.7 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

## 2. HAIRCUTTING (30 minutes)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will perform a Haircut.”*

*“You will complete a tapered haircut using clippers with and without guards and shears.”*

*“You will cut at least 1/2 inch of hair throughout the haircut.”*

*“You will be expected to complete and blend the haircut.”*

*“Do not remove your hair clippings from your work area until you are instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 30 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 15 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 2.1 Sanitizes hands
- 2.2 Uses clipper and comb without guard to perform a tapered haircut below the occipital bone (nape) with no blocked line
- 2.3 Uses clippers with guard to perform a tapered haircut from the front of the ear to the parietal ridge
- 2.4 Uses comb and shears to perform haircut above the parietal ridge and on the top of the head
- 2.5 Establishes outline around ears and sides of neck that follows natural hairline
- 2.6 Demonstrates safe use of shears
- 2.7 Demonstrates safe use of clippers

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually:

*“May I please use your comb to check the haircut?”*

*NIC Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination – Haircutting (continued)*

- 2.8 Hair in front of ear is uniform in length (sideburns)
- 2.9 Haircut blended evenly without weight line
- 2.10 At least ½ inch of hair is cut throughout

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually after the final appearance of the haircut has been examined:

*“Please clean up your hair at this time. Upon completion, please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

- 2.11 Removes hair clippings from skin, drape, and work area
- 2.12 Removes hair from floor
- 2.13 Maintains drape throughout section
- 2.14 Practices infection control procedures throughout section
- 2.15 Maintains safe work area throughout section
- 2.16 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidates when all examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment:

*“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”*

### 3. SHAVING WITH A STRAIGHT RAZOR (Untimed)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions for Set Up:** Read to all candidates:

*“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Shaving with a Straight Razor section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated that they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will prepare your model for the shave.”*

*“You will drape your model for a shave.”*

*“You will prepare the face for shaving by lathering and steaming.”*

*NIC Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination – Shaving with a Straight Razor (continued)*

*“This is an untimed section.”*

*“Do not begin to demonstrate the shaving strokes until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 3.1 Sets up implements that are visibly clean**
- 3.2 Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English**
- 3.3 Sanitizes hands to include wrist**
- 3.4 Applies drape across front of model covering shoulders but not touching the skin of the neck**
- 3.5 Applies towel securely by tucking into neckband**
- 3.6 Places residue towel across chest/shoulder area**
- 3.7 Lathers beard and mustache area using a circular motion with cushion of fingers**
- 3.8 Wrings wet steam towel thoroughly, test temperature of wet steam towel on inside of wrist, and applies steam towel around face folding ends over forehead and leaving nostrils exposed**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates after all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed their preparation:

*“All candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed their preparation.”*

*“You will perform Shaving with a Straight Razor.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will be instructed individually by the examiner when to remove the towel, re-lather, and begin the shave.”*

*“This is an untimed section.”*

*“Do not remove the steam towel or demonstrate any strokes until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually:

*“Please remove the steam towel, re-lather, and demonstrate the first 5 shaving strokes.”*

- 3.9 Removes steam towel and lather together in a continuous motion**
- 3.10 Re-lathers beard and mustache area using a circular motion with cushion of fingers**
- 3.11 Demonstrates freehand stroke in areas 1, 3, and 4**
- 3.12 Holds straight razor in correct freehand position with palm facing toward model while shaving**
- 3.13 Demonstrates backhand stroke in area 2**
- 3.14 Holds straight razor in correct backhand position with palm facing away from model**
- 3.15 Uses reverse freehand stroke in area 5**



*NIC Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination – Shaving with a Straight Razor (continued)*

- 3.16 Holds straight razor in correct reverse freehand position with palm facing toward model**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually after first 5 strokes are evaluated:  
*“Please complete your shave at this time.”*

- 3.17 Keeps stretching hand dry and lather-free to prevent slipping**  
**3.18 Strokes straight razor at 20°- 40° angle**  
**3.19 Demonstrates shaving stroke(s) with leading point of straight razor**  
**3.20 Completes the shave. Wrings wet steam towel thoroughly, tests temperature of wet steam towel on inside of wrist, and applies steam towel to remove all residue**  
**3.21 Applies toner or astringent**  
**3.22 Maintains drape throughout section**  
**3.23 Practices infection control procedures throughout section**  
**3.24 Maintains safe work area throughout section**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually after the shaving with a straight razor has been examined:

*“Please step back and wait for further instruction.”*

- 3.25 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to entire group when all examiners have graded the shave:  
*“All examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment.”*

## **4. BASIC FACIAL (10 minutes)**

+ *ADDITIONAL SECTION* +

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions for Set Up:** Read to all candidates:

*“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Basic Facial section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”*  
*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated that they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:  
*“Please stop working.”*

*NIC Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination – Basic Facial (continued)*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will perform a Basic Facial.”*

*“You will prepare your client for the service.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 4.1 **Implements and supplies are visibly clean**
- 4.2 **Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English**
- 4.3 **Sanitizes hands**
- 4.4 **Applies hair drape to secure hair away from face**
- 4.5 **Re-sanitizes hands to include wrist**
- 4.6 **Removes cleanser from container**
- 4.7 **Cleanses entire face safely**
- 4.8 **Wrings wet steam towel thoroughly, tests temperature of wet steam towel on inside of wrist, and removes all cleanser using steam towel safely**
- 4.9 **Removes massage product from container**
- 4.10 **Distributes massage product over face**
- 4.11 **Demonstrates massage while maintaining continuous contact**
- 4.12 **Wrings wet steam towel thoroughly, tests temperature of wet steam towel on inside of wrist, and removes massage product using steam towel**
- 4.13 **Applies toner or astringent**
- 4.14 **Maintains drape throughout section**
- 4.15 **Practices infection control procedures throughout section**
- 4.16 **Maintains safe work area throughout section**
- 4.17 **Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated that they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed to the next section of the examination.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

## 5. BLOW DRY STYLING (15 minutes)

+ ADDITIONAL SECTION+

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions for Set Up:** Read to all candidates:

*“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Blow Dry Styling section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated that they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will perform Blow Dry Styling.”*

*“Prepare by wetting the top and one side of the head.”*

*“You will blow dry only the top and one side of the head.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 8 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 5.1 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 5.2 Sanitizes hands
- 5.3 Applies drape
- 5.4 Demonstrates safe use of blow dryer
- 5.5 Controls hair with a brush or comb
- 5.6 Performs blow dry styling on top and one side of head
- 5.7 Dries hair from scalp to ends to create volume
- 5.8 Maintains drape throughout section
- 5.9 Practices infection control procedures throughout section
- 5.10 Maintains safe work area throughout section

*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Blow Dry Styling (continued)*

**5.11 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:  
*“Please stop working.”*

**6. THERMAL CURLING (10 minutes)**

+ *ADDITIONAL SECTION* +

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions for Set Up:** Read to all candidates:

*“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Thermal Curling section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Plug in your curling iron at this time.”* (**Additional verbal instruction if hot iron is used**)

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated that they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:  
*“Please stop working.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will perform Thermal Curling.”*

*“You will form three curls on the top of the head and four curls on one side of the head.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 10 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Thermal Curling (continued)*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 6.1 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 6.2 Sanitizes hands
- 6.3 Tests temperature of iron *PRIOR* to applying to hair
- 6.4 Subsections hair same width as barrel of iron
- 6.5 Subsections hair no wider than 3 inches
- 6.6 Establishes a base
- 6.7 Distributes hair evenly around iron
- 6.8 Forms a complete curl
- 6.9 Protects scalp from iron with comb
- 6.10 Forms curl so that the hair is smooth and unmarked
- 6.11 Demonstrates safe use of iron
- 6.12 Maintains drape throughout section
- 6.13 Practices infection control procedures throughout section
- 6.14 Maintains safe work area throughout section
- 6.15 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated that they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

## 7. CHEMICAL WAVING (20 minutes)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions for Set Up:** Read to all candidates:

*“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Chemical Waving section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated that they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Chemical Waving (continued)*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will perform Chemical Waving.”*

*“You will prepare your client for chemical services.”*

*“You will wrap the entire center back section of the head, from crown to nape.”*

*“Once you are finished wrapping, please step back and wait for the next verbal instructions to be given.”*

*“Do not perform saturation or a test curl until instructed individually by the examiner to do so.”*

*“Do not remove the remaining rods until you are instructed to do so.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 7.1 **Implements and supplies are visibly clean**
- 7.2 **Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English**
- 7.3 **Sanitizes hands**
- 7.4 **Subsections hair straight and evenly**
- 7.5 **Subsections hair no longer than length of rod**
- 7.6 **Subsections hair same width as rod**
- 7.7 **Wraps hair evenly and smoothly around rod**
- 7.8 **Distributes hair evenly across end paper**
- 7.9 **Extends end papers beyond hair ends**
- 7.10 **Places bands correctly**
- 7.11 **Uses same rod base placement throughout section**
- 7.12 **Wraps hair around rod at least 1½ times**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section. Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working. Please wait until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually after all candidates have stepped back or timing has elapsed:

*“Please demonstrate saturation.”*

- 7.13 **Applies cotton and/or protective cream**
- 7.14 **Wears gloves**
- 7.15 **Applies simulated product across length of all rods**



*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Chemical Waving (continued)*

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually:

*“Please demonstrate a test curl.”*

**7.16 Unwraps rod at least 1 ½ turns and hair is held to relax**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Once rod is removed from the hair, read individually to candidate:

*“Do not remove the remaining rods until instructed to do so.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read when all examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed:

*“All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed.”*

*“You will remove all remaining rods from the head and create 4 sections for the remaining chemical services.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 5 minutes to complete this section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 2 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**7.17 Maintains drape throughout section**

**7.18 Practices infection control procedures throughout section**

**7.19 Maintains safe work area throughout section**

**7.20 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

## **8. VIRGIN HAIR LIGHTENING AND HAIRCOLOR RETOUCH** **(20 minutes, in two 10-minute segments)**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions for Set Up:** Read to all candidates:

*“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the virgin hair lightening and hair color retouch section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Virgin Hair Lightening and Haircolor Retouch (continued)*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will perform Virgin Hair Lightening.”*

*“You will complete a virgin hair lightening application on the first quadrant of hair.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 10 minutes to complete the virgin hair lightening.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”*

*“Upon completion of the virgin hair lightening section, please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

*“Do not perform the haircolor retouch section until instructed to do so.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

**(First 10-minute segment)**

- 8.1 Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- 8.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 8.3 Sanitizes hands
- 8.4 Demonstrates predisposition test behind the ear
- 8.5 Divides head into four equal sections
- 8.6 Applies protective cream
- 8.7 Wears gloves

**Demonstration of Virgin Hair Lightening Application**

- 8.8 Subsections hair 1/4 inch wide or less
- 8.9 Applies simulated product 1/2 inch from scalp
- 8.10 Applies simulated product up to but not including last 1 inch of hair
- 8.11 Completely covers mid shaft with simulated product

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to entire group if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed this section of the examination. We will now proceed to the next section of the examination.”*



*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Virgin Hair Lightening and Haircolor Retouch  
(continued)*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to entire group if timer goes off:

*“Please stop working.”*

**Demonstration of Hair Color Retouch (10 minutes)**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates

*“You will perform a Haircolor Retouch.”*

*“You will complete a haircolor retouch application on the second quadrant of hair.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You have 10 minutes to complete the hair color retouch section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 8.12 Outlines hair color retouch quadrant**
- 8.13 Subsections hair 1/2 inch wide or less**
- 8.14 Applies simulated product on the scalp out to 2 inches**
- 8.15 Completely covers new growth with simulated product**
- 8.16 Keeps perimeter skin free of product**
- 8.17 Maintains drape throughout section**
- 8.18 Practices infection control procedures throughout section**
- 8.19 Maintains safe work area throughout section**
- 8.20 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed to the next section of the examination.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

## 9. CHEMICAL RELAXING – VIRGIN APPLICATION AND RETOUCH (20 minutes, in two 10-minute segments)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions for Set Up:** Read to all candidates:

*“You have 2 minutes to set up the supplies for the Chemical Relaxing – Virgin Application and Retouch section of this examination. Please do not begin any procedures until the verbal instructions have been read and you are instructed to begin.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have indicated they have completed this section of the examination, we will now proceed.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please stop working.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates:

*“You will perform Chemical Relaxing.”*

*“You will complete a chemical relaxer application on the third quadrant of hair.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You will have 10 minutes to complete the virgin relaxer application section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”*

*“Upon completion of the virgin relaxer section, please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given.”*

*“Do not perform the relaxer retouch section until instructed to do so.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

(1) *“The instructions will be repeated.”*

(2) *“You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

**(First 10-minute segment)**

- 9.1 Sets up work area with supplies labeled in English
- 9.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 9.3 Sanitizes hands
- 9.4 Applies protective cream around hairline
- 9.5 Wears gloves

*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Chemical Relaxing – Virgin Application and Retouch (continued)*

### **Demonstration of Virgin Relaxer Application**

- 9.6 Subsections hair 1/4 inch wide or less**
- 9.7 Applies simulated product 1/2 inch from scalp**
- 9.8 Applies simulated product up to but not including last 1 inch of hair**
- 9.9 Completely covers mid shaft with simulated product**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to entire group if all candidates have stepped back to indicate that they have completed the section before the timing has elapsed:

*“All candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed this section of the examination. We will now proceed to the next section.”*

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to entire group if timer goes off:

*“Please stop working.”*

### **Demonstration of Relaxer Retouch (10 minutes)**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates

*“You will perform a Relaxer Retouch.”*

*“You will complete a relaxer retouch application on the remaining quadrant of hair.”*

*“You will be expected to follow all client protection, safety and infection control procedures.”*

*“You have 10 minutes to complete the hair color retouch section.”*

*“You will be informed when you have 5 minutes remaining.”*

*“Step back to indicate you have finished.”*

*(1) “The instructions will be repeated.”*

*(2) “You may begin.”*

**Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:**

- 9.10 Subsections hair 1/4 inch wide or less**
- 9.11 Applies simulated product starting slightly off scalp, up to 1/4 inch from scalp and out to 2 inches**
- 9.12 Completely covers new growth with simulated product**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually after timing is completed or all candidates have stepped back:

*“Please demonstrate smoothing the relaxer retouch product.”*

- 9.13 Demonstrates smoothing of subsection**
- 9.14 Keeps perimeter skin free of product**
- 9.15 Maintains drape throughout section**
- 9.16 Practices infection control procedures throughout section**
- 9.17 Maintains safe work area throughout section**

*NIC Barber Styling/Barber Practical Examination – Chemical Relaxing – Virgin Application and Retouch (continued)*

**9.18 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if the timer goes off before all candidates have stepped back:  
*“Please stop working.”*

### **CANDIDATE CLEANUP AND FINAL SUMMARY**

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates at the conclusion of the examination:  
*“All examiners have indicated they have completed their assessment.”*  
*“Make sure that all kit supplies and disposable materials are taken with you.”*  
*“This concludes the National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, National Barber/Barber Styling Practical Examination.”*  
*“Thank you for your participation.”*

## SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

---

*All supplies must be labeled in English. No other languages can be present unless an original manufacturer's label is present. Original manufacturers' labels must have English and may be multi-language. All other created labels must be only English*

*\* Please refer to State guidelines*

### UNIVERSAL SUPPLIES (Also known as General Supplies)

---

- dry storage kit/container\*
- hand sanitizer with manufacturer's label
- mannequin head(s) and a table clamp\* (pre-marked mannequin head(s) are NOT permitted)
- a towel to place between the clamp and the table\*
- EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant with manufacturer's label that demonstrates bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used\*
- astringent or toner
- container labeled "to be disinfected"
- container labeled "soiled linens"
- container labeled "trash"
- cloth towel(s)
- paper towel(s)
- neck strip(s)
- protective drape(s) (child size is appropriate for mannequin)
- hair clip(s)
- comb(s)
- hair brush(es)
- spray bottle with water
- protective cream
- spatula(s)
- protective cotton
- protective gloves
- tape
- first aid kit

### HAIRCUTTING SUPPLIES

---

- haircutting shears
- clippers
- comb(s)
- guard(s)

### SHAVING SUPPLIES

---

- shaving cream (non-aerosol)
- straight razor
- wet steam towels

**+BASIC FACIAL SUPPLIES (ADDITIONAL SECTION)**

---

- hair drape
- cleanser
- massage product
- astringent or toner
- wet steam towels

**+BLOW DRY STYLING SUPPLIES (ADDITIONAL SECTION)**

---

- blow dryer
- spray bottle with water
- hair brush(es)

**+THERMAL CURLING SUPPLIES (ADDITIONAL SECTION)**

---

- thermal curling iron with cord attached
- comb(s)
- material for testing temperature of iron

**CHEMICAL WAVING SUPPLIES**

---

- chemical wave rods
- end papers
- simulated waving lotion (water)
- comb(s)

**HAIRCOLORING AND LIGHTENING SUPPLIES**

---

- tint brush(es) and bowl or bottle applicator
- thick gel or colored cholesterol\*
- comb(s)
- hair clips

**CHEMICAL RELAXING SUPPLIES**

---

- tint brush(es) and bowl or bottle applicator
- thick gel or colored cholesterol\*
- comb(s)