



CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)

#### EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please visit your official NIC examination state or vendor webpage OR <u>www.nictesting.org</u>, for the most current bulletin prior to testing.

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

#### This bulletin contains IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the NIC National Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination content and administration for Natural Hair 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 document 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 individual documents 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 document 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. <u>Picture ID is required for re</u>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.

- EPA registered, disinfectant WIPES that demonstrate bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal properties must be used. DISINFECTANT SPRAYS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED IN THE TESTING ENVIRONMENT
- 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.
  - 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."

0

- Examiners are not allowed to speak with candidates.
  - If candidates experience 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 services) to indicate they have finished.
  - In the event that all candidates complete the section <u>before</u> 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 Health and Safety Standards.

## 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 Health and Safety standards, or go to 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, watches (of any kind), 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 your immediate dismissal from the examination and your actions reported to the proper authorities.
- <u>All supplies must be labeled in English</u>. When an original manufacturer's label is required, there can be NO handwritten or any other type of labeling. Original manufacturers' labels <u>must have English</u> 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.
  - <u>EPA-registered disinfectant WIPES that demonstrate bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal</u> properties must be used. <u>DISINFECTANT SPRAYS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED IN THE</u>

**TESTING ENVIRONMENT.** 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 <u>OR DISINFECTANT SPRAYS</u> are allowed in the testing environment.
- o 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 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 Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination:

- Candidates will be evaluated on proper designation of materials that are disposed. You are required to bring and use the following supplies for the appropriate disposal of materials:
  - Container <u>labeled</u> "to be disinfected"
  - Container labeled "soiled linens"
  - Container labeled "trash"
- It is specified that there is <u>more than one client</u> represented for the purpose of this examination. A new client is introduced and must be prepared for during the course of the examination (see Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination Content Domains Sections).
- The following sections are *new* to the Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination:
  - Work Area and <u>New</u> Client Preparation, and Set Up of Supplies (Content Domain Section 5)
  - Blood Exposure Procedure (Content Domain Section 6)
- <u>Candidates are expected to brace any time they are working around the eye and mouth areas.</u>
- 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.

## NATURAL HAIR STYLING PRACTICAL EXAMINATION CONTENT DOMAIN SECTIONS

The scope of the National Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination includes 8 (eight) core domain sections. The <u>Core Domain Sections</u> are based on the national job analysis.

- 1. Work Area and Client Preparation, and Set Up of Supplies (First client (15 minutes)
- 2. Extension To Visible Cornrow Braid (15 minutes)
- **3.** Invisible Cornrow Braid (10 minutes)
- 4. Extension To Individual Braid (10 minutes)
- 5. Work Area and <u>New</u> Client Preparation, and Set Up of Supplies (Second client 15 minutes)
- 6. Horizontal Braid For Sew-In (10 minutes)
- 7. Sew-in Weft Attachment and Shaping (15 minutes)
- 8. Blood Exposure Procedure (10 minutes)

## **CONTENT DOMAINS**

# 1. WORK AREA AND CLIENT PREPARATION, AND SET UP OF SUPPLIES (15 minutes)

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

"You will prepare your work area for your client."

"You will set up the universal supplies you will use throughout the examination."

"You will also set up the supplies for the following sections of the examination:

Extension to Visible Cornrow Braid,

Invisible Cornrow Braid,

Extension to Individual Braid."

"You will prepare your client for services."

- "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."
- "Do not demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin."

"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:

- 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 Universal supplies are labeled in English
- 1.4 Performs analysis of scalp and hair
- 1.5 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 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. EXTENSION TO VISIBLE CORNROW BRAID (15 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

"You will perform an extension to visible cornrow braid."

"You will place the visible cornrow braid extension at the front hairline."

"You will extend the hair no more than six inches beyond the natural hair length."

"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:

- 2.1 Extension to visible cornrow braid supplies are labeled in English
- 2.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 2.3 Extension hair is added to cornrow braid

**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.""* 

#### 2.4 Final appearance of extension to visible cornrow braid

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate individually after extension to visible cornrow braid had been examined:

"Please step back and do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given."

- 2.5 Maintains drape throughout section
- 2.6 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates once examiners have completed assessment for this section: *"All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed."* 

## 3. INVISIBLE CORNROW BRAID (10 minutes)

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

"You will perform an Invisible Cornrow Braid."

- "You will place the invisible cornrow braid at the front hairline."
- "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:

- 3.1 Invisible cornrow braid supplies are labeled in English
- 3.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- **3.3** Perform invisible cornrow braid

**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.""* 

## 3.4 Final appearance of invisible cornrow braid

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate individually after Invisible Cornrow Braid has been examined:

"Please step back and do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given."

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

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates once examiners have completed assessment for this section: *"All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed."* 

## 4. EXTENSION TO INDIVIDUAL BRAID (10 minutes)

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

"You will perform an Extension to Individual Braid."

"You will place the individual braid extension at the front hairline."

"You will extend the hair no more than six inches beyond the natural hair length."

"You will be instructed individually by the examiner to demonstrate braid removal"

"Do not begin to remove the braid until 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 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 Extension to individual braid supplies are labeled in English
- 4.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 4.3 Extension is added to individual braid

**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."* 

#### 4.4 Final appearance of extension to individual braid

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually: *"Please demonstrate removal of the extension."* 

#### 4.5 **Removes extension**

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate individually after Extension to Individual Braid has been examined:

"Please step back and do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given."

## 4.6 Maintains drape throughout section

#### NIC Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination – Extension to Individual Braid (continued)

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

- "All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed."
- "You will remove the remaining braids, brush the hair back, and dispose of supplies used in previous sections of this examination."
- "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."
- "Do not setup or demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin."

"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:

## 4.7 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 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."* 

## 5. WORK AREA AND <u>NEW</u> CLIENT PREPARATION, AND SET UP OF SUPPLIES (15 minutes)

Proctor – Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

"You will prepare your work area for a NEW client."

"You will set up the universal supplies that you will use for the remainder of the examination."

"You will also set up for the following sections of the examination: Braid for Sew-in,

Sew-in Weft Attachment and Shaping."

"You will prepare your client for services."

"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."

"Do not demonstrate any procedures until the verbal instructions are given and you are instructed to begin."

"Step back to indicate you have finished."

NIC Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination – Work Area and Client Preparation, and Set Up of Supplies (continued)

- (1) "The instructions will be repeated."
- (2) "You may begin."

Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 5.1 Disinfects all work areas completely with product labeled in English as EPA registered, hospital-grade disinfectant
- 5.2 Sanitizes hands with product labeled in English
- 5.3 Universal supplies are labeled in English
- 5.4 Performs analysis of scalp and hair
- 5.5 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 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. HORIZONTAL BRAID FOR SEW-IN (10 minutes)

Proctor - Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

"You will perform a Horizontal Braid for Sew-In."

"You will create a horizontal braid between the occipital and the nape, from ear to ear."

"You will be instructed individually by the examiner to demonstrate the oil application."

"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."

"Do not demonstrate the oil application 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:

- 6.1 Braid for sew-in supplies are labeled in English
- 6.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean

### NIC Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination – Braid for Sew-In (continued)

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before 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 do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given."* 

## 6.3 Final appearance of braid

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually: *"Please demonstrate application of oil."* 

## 6.4 Applies oil

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate individually after Horizontal Braid for Sew in has been examined:

"Please do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given."

## 6.5 Maintains drape throughout section

6.6 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."

# 7. SEW-IN WEFT ATTACHMENT AND SHAPING (15 MINUTES)

Proctor - Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

"You will perform a Sew-In Weft Attachment and Shaping."

"You will attach the weft of hair to the length of the horizontal braid and shape the free ends."

"You will be instructed individually by the examiner to remove the weft."

"Do not remove the weft until 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 15 minutes to complete this section."

"You will be informed when you have 8 minutes remaining."

"Step back to indicate you have finished."

NIC Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination – Sew-In Weft Attachment and Shaping (continued)

- (1) "The instructions will be repeated."
- (2) "You may begin."

## Candidates will be evaluated on the following tasks:

- 7.1 Weft attachment and shaping for sew-in supplies are labeled in English
- 7.2 Implements and supplies are visibly clean
- 7.3 Attach weft with sew-in method
- 7.4 Shapes ends of added hair

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before 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 do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given."* 

## 7.5 Final appearance of weft

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to each candidate individually: *"Please demonstrate removal of the weft."* 

## 7.6 Remove the weft

**Examiner – Verbal Instructions:** Read to candidate individually after removal of weft has been examined:

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

- 7.7 Removes hair from work area
- 7.8 Maintains drape throughout section
- 7.9 Items to be disinfected, soiled linens, and trash are disposed of in a correct manner throughout section

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read to all candidates once examiners have completed assessment for this section:

"All examiners have indicated they are ready to proceed."

## 8. BLOOD EXPOSURE PROCEDURE (10 minutes)

Proctor - Verbal Instructions: Read to all candidates:

"You will demonstrate the blood exposure procedure."

"You will imagine the following scenario: During a service, you have sustained a minor cut to your own index finger. The injury is such that you can continue with the service. Your work area or client has not been contaminated. You are expected to demonstrate the proper procedure for a blood exposure."

"You are 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:

- 8.1 Blood exposure supplies are labeled in English
- 8.2 Removes materials from first aid kit
- 8.3 Supplies and materials are visibly clean
- 8.4 Cleans injured area with antiseptic
- 8.5 Cover with dressing that is absorbent and secured
- 8.6 Candidate wears glove or finger guard
- 8.7 Disposes of all contaminated supplies

**Proctor – Verbal Instructions:** Read if all candidates have stepped back to indicate they have completed the section before 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 do nothing until the next verbal instructions are given."* 

## 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 Natural Hair Styling Practical Examination."

"Thank you for your participation."

## SUGGESTED EXAMINATION SUPPLIES

#### Information related to labeling of 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

#### EXAMINATION UNIVERSAL/GENERAL SUPPLIES

- candidate supply kit to serve as dry storage area (must be closeable)
- EPA-registered disinfectant wipes with manufacturer's label that demonstrate bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal properties must be used (must be actual disinfectant wipes)
- hand sanitizer and manufacturer's label (must be actual hand sanitizer)
- container labeled "items to be disinfected"
- container labeled "soiled linens"
- container labeled "trash"
- first aid kit
- paper towels

## NATURAL HAIR- UNIVERSAL/GENERAL SUPPLIES

- mannequin head(s) and a table clamp or tri-pod (pre-markings or pre-sectioning on mannequins is not permitted)
- neck strip(s)
- protective cape(s) (child size capes may be used)
- cloth towels
- hair clip(s) and/or clamp(s)
- comb(s)
- hair brush(es)
- drawing board (optional)
- cutting implement/shears
- spray bottle with water
- gel
- protective cream
- spatula(s)
- •

## EXTENSION TO VISIBLE CORNROW BRAID SUPPLIES

- rubber bands
- bobby pins
- extension fibers

#### INVISIBLE CORNROW BRAID SUPPLIES

- rubber bands
- bobby pins

## EXTENSION TO INVISIBLE BRAID SUPPLIES

- extension fibers
- small rubber bands

## INDIVIDUAL BRAID SUPPLIES

- rubber bands
- bobby pins

## EXTENSION TO INDIVIDUAL BRAID SUPPLIES

- rubber bands
- extension fibers

## **BRAID FOR SEW-IN SUPPLIES**

- thread
- blunt-end needle
- oil/lubricant

## SEW-IN WEFT ATTACHMENT AND SHAPING SUPPLIES

- weft of hair
- measuring tape
- thread
- blunt-end needle

## **BLOOD EXPOSURE PROCEDURE**

bag for disposal of blood-contaminated materials