



NATIONAL BODY PIERCING  
THEORY EXAMINATION  
CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN (CIB)

**EXAMINATION CONTENT AND IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**

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

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The National Body Piercing Theory Examination is the licensure examination for Body Piercing practitioners, 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 theory examination, sample questions and answers. The time allowed for the Body Piercing Theory Examination is **90 minutes**.

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

- **Examination Content** and **Important Instructions** – This document provides information about the scope of content covered in the Theory examination and information and guidelines related to administration of the Theory examination.
- **References** – *This document provides a list of references used to develop and support the content covered in the examination.*

**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, pagers, tablets, computers, projectors, cameras, or 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.*

**BODY PIERCING THEORY EXAMINATION  
CONTENT OUTLINE**

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The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Body Piercing Theory Examination. The percentages represent the percentage of items from each domain. The examination is comprised of 110 items of which 100 items are weighted and contribute to the candidate's final score.

**DOMAIN I: Scientific Concepts (55%)**

A. Infection Control and Safety Practices

1. Comprehend basic concepts of microbiology related to piercing
2. Identify how disease and infection are caused and transmitted
3. Recognize purpose and/or effects of infection control
  - a. Levels of infection control
    - i. Sanitation/Cleaning (e.g., housekeeping)
    - ii. Disinfection
    - iii. Sterilization
  - b. Process of infection control (e.g., dispensing of products, disposal of soiled materials)
    - i. Prevent cross-contamination
    - ii. Differentiate between the purpose of single- and multi-use items (e.g., supplies, materials, tools)
    - iii. Operation and maintenance of related equipment (e.g., autoclave, ultrasonic)
4. Indicate first aid and CPR procedures
5. Recognize requirements of federal agencies
  - a. Occupational exposure and contact procedures (OSHA, CDC)
  - b. Safety Data Sheets (OSHA)

B. Human Anatomy and Physiology

1. Identify functions, structure of the skin, and underlying anatomy
2. Comprehend anomalies, signs and symptoms of conditions and disorders of relevant tissue

C. Distinguish Classifications and Composition of Body Jewelry Used for Piercings

**DOMAIN II: Piercing Procedures and Services (45%)**

A. Client Consultation, Analysis, and Documentation for Piercing Services

1. Obtain informed consent and maintain client records
2. Manage client expectations
  - a. Explain procedure, process, and risks
  - b. Verify location of piercing and jewelry selection
3. Evaluate client and identify contraindications
  - a. General health and suitability
  - b. Tissue anomalies and disorders
  - c. Allergies and sensitivities
4. Distribute aftercare instructions and explain healing considerations for various types of piercings

B. Tools and Equipment Used for Piercing and Services

1. Maintenance, storage, and use of equipment, supplies, materials, and chemicals
2. Comprehend function, operation, and use of tools (e.g., forceps, needles, receiving tubes, pliers, calipers, etc.)
3. Differentiate between body jewelry options for initial and healed piercings
4. Identify piercing procedures

- a. Placement
    - i. Ear and facial
    - ii. Oral
    - iii. Torso
  - b. Execution of piercing
    - i. Marking and skin preparation
    - ii. Avoiding damage to underlying structures
5. Stretching and insertion
- a. Suitable amount of increase
  - b. Jewelry selection
  - c. Procedure

## BODY PIERCING THEORY EXAMINATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS

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The following sample questions are similar to those presented in the NIC Body Piercing Theory Examination. Each item has four answer options. Only one option is correct or the answer. An answer key is provided following the sample questions. Performance on the sample questions may not represent performance on the NIC examination.

1. A sharps container is used to
  - (A) store clean needles.
  - (B) store marking devices.
  - (C) dispose of used absorbent materials.
  - (D) dispose of used needles.
2. Which of the following is used to secure the skin when piercing?
  - (A) Tapers
  - (B) Rubber bands
  - (C) Closing pliers
  - (D) Forceps
3. Which of the following signs and symptoms is associated with the normal healing process?
  - (A) Itching
  - (B) Redness
  - (C) Pus
  - (D) Swelling
4. Hard surfaces are cleaned with an appropriate EPA registered
  - (A) witch hazel.
  - (B) disinfecting solution.
  - (C) isopropyl alcohol.
  - (D) antibacterial soap.
5. Which of the following gauges is **MOST** appropriate for an eyebrow piercing?
  - (A) 2 gauge
  - (B) 8 gauge
  - (C) 16 gauge
  - (D) 22 gauge

**KEY: 1: D, 2: D, 3: A, 4: B, 5: C**

**NATIONAL BODY PIERCING EXAMINATION REFERENCES**

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*The following sources are used by NIC to develop and support National Body Piercing Theory Examination content. References are listed alphabetically with the most recent copyright date presented first. NIC uses the most recent versions for item and examination development.*

*Milady Standard Esthetics: Fundamentals*  
2013, Edition: 11  
Milady  
5 Maxwell Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065-2919  
[www.milady.cengage.com](http://www.milady.cengage.com)

*Procedure Manual*  
2013 Edition  
Association of Professional Piercers (APP)  
P.O. Box 1287  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
<http://www.safepiercing.org/publications/procedure-manual/>

*The Piercing Bible: The Definitive Guide to Safe Body Piercing*  
Elayne Angel  
2009  
Random House/Crossing Press  
<http://www.infinitebody.com/shop/the-piercing-bible.html>

*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)