



NATIONAL TATTOOING
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.

The National Tattooing Theory Examination is the licensure examination for Tattooing 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 Tattooing 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

- 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.*

TATTOOING THEORY EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE

The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Tattooing 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 1: SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS (55%)

A. Infection Control and Safety Practices

1. Identify how disease and infection are caused and transmitted
2. Recognize purpose and/or effects of infection control
 - a. Levels of infection control:
 - i. Sanitation/Cleaning
 - ii. Disinfection
 - iii. Sterilization
 - b. Process of infection control (e.g., dispensing of products, disposal of soiled materials, storage of supplies):
 - ii. Prevent cross-contamination
 - iii. Differentiate between the purpose of single- and multi-use items (e.g., equipment, supplies, materials, tools)
3. Identify first aid and CPR procedures
4. Recognize requirements of federal agencies:
 - a. Blood exposure and contact procedures (OSHA, CDC)
 - b. Safety and Data Sheets (OSHA)

B. Human Anatomy and Physiology

1. Identify functions and structure of the skin
2. Identify signs and symptoms of conditions, disorders, and diseases of the skin

C. Recognize Basic Chemistry of Inks Used in Tattooing

DOMAIN 2: Tattoo Procedures and Services (45%)

A. Client Consultation, Analysis and Documentation for Tattoo Services

1. Obtain informed consent
2. Recognize client expectations
 - a. Explain permanency of tattoo
 - b. Verify design, spelling and location of tattoo
3. Evaluate client's skin and identify contraindications:
 - a. General health
 - b. Skin disorders & diseases
4. Explain pre- and post-treatment instructions
5. Establish/Maintain client records (e.g., service history, client card, medical history)
6. Recognize skin preparation procedures

B. Tools and Equipment Used for Tattoo Services

1. Maintenance and storage of equipment, supplies, materials
2. Comprehend function and operation
 - a. Hand/Manual
 - b. Rotary/Pen
 - c. Coil

3. Differentiate between needle options and selections
 - a. Magnified needle inspection (eye loupe)
 - b. Needle grouping types
 - c. Needle properties
 - d. Needle making
4. Recognize tattoo application concepts
 - a. Outlining
 - b. Shading
 - c. Coloring
 - d. Application of design to skin

TATTOOING THEORY EXAMINATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following sample questions are similar to those presented in the NIC Tattooing 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. What is occurring when the autoclave is venting?
 - (A) Release of pressure
 - (B) Pressure is building
 - (C) Machine is warming up
 - (D) Machine is operating at full capacity
2. A sterilized bottle of tattoo ink remains sterile until it is
 - (A) placed on the station.
 - (B) opened.
 - (C) touched.
 - (D) placed in storage.
3. An effective consent or release form should disclose
 - (A) client professional occupation.
 - (B) client dietary preferences.
 - (C) client medical conditions.
 - (D) client financial information.
4. What are the basic ingredients in tattoo ink?
 - (A) Pigment, oil, witch hazel, alcohol
 - (B) Distilled water, pigment, glycerin, alcohol
 - (C) Dye, distilled water, alcohol, witch hazel
 - (D) Food coloring, glycerin, witch hazel, alcohol
5. Building up the thickness of line work is known as?
 - (A) line weight.
 - (B) shading.
 - (C) color packing.
 - (D) outline.

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

NATIONAL TATTOOING EXAMINATION REFERENCES

The following sources are used by NIC to develop and support National Tattooing 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

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

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