



NATIONAL PERMANENT COSMETICS
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 Permanent Cosmetics Theory Examination is the national licensure examination for Permanent Cosmetologists, which is developed and administered 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, and references. The time allowed for the Permanent Cosmetics Theory Examination is 90 minutes.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY.

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 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 provides a list of references used to develop and support the content covered in the examination. The references are always the same for the Theory and Practical examinations.

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 the 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.*

**PERMANENT COSMETICS THEORY EXAMINATION
CONTENT OUTLINE**

The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Permanent Cosmetics Theory Examination. The percentages represent the percentage of items from each domain. The examination is comprised of 85 items of which 75 items are weighted and contribute to the candidate's final score.

1. SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS (46%)

- A. Apply knowledge of infection control as related to:
 - 1. Microbiology
 - a. Bacteria
 - i. Pathogenic
 - ii. Nonpathogenic
 - b. Virus
 - c. Fungi
 - d. Parasites
 - 2. Cross contamination and disease transmission
 - a. Levels of infection control
 - i. Sanitation
 - ii. Disinfection
 - iii. Sterilization
 - b. OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standards
 - i. Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
 - ii. Manufacturer's instructions and labels
 - iii. Exposure control plans
 - c. CDC Universal Precautions
 - d. Multi-use and single use equipment and supplies
- B. Apply knowledge of safe use and storage of equipment and supplies
- C. Recognize basic human physiology/anatomy as it relates to:
 - 1. Nervous system
 - 2. Vascular system
 - a. Veins
 - b. Arteries
 - 3. Layers of the skin
 - a. Epidermis
 - b. Dermis
 - c. Subcutaneous
- D. Identify disorders, anomalies, and diseases of the skin

2. PERMANENT COSMETICS APPLICATION (43%)

- A. Conduct client consultation
 - 1. Client Record
 - a. Information consent
 - b. Photo documentation of services (before and after)
 - c. Procedure and expectations
 - d. Skin typing/classification (e.g., Fitzpatrick Scale, color selection)
 - e. Contraindications (e.g., allergies, disorders, medications, injectables)
 - 2. Post care
- B. Preparation of the skin (e.g., cleansing the skin, topical anesthetics)
- C. Perform pre-application procedure for client approval
 - 1. Placement of design or shape on client
 - 2. Design/Shaping
 - 3. Color selection
- D. Demonstrate knowledge and safe use of procedure equipment
 - 1. Manual device
 - 2. Powered machine/device
 - 3. Needles (e.g., barriers, glove changes, workstation contamination)
 - 4. Safety
- E. Preparation and setup of workstation supplies (e.g., ink cups, water, cotton/gauze)
- F. Demonstrate knowledge of Permanent Cosmetics applications
 - 1. Lining
 - 2. Shading (e.g., ombre powder fill, manual powder brow)
 - 3. Microblading
 - 4. Color Theory and Correction
 - 5. Composition of pigment and ink
 - 6. Conclusion of procedure
 - 7. Infection Control (e.g., barriers, glove changes, workstation contamination)
 - 8. Safety (e.g., bracing, stretching, insertion)

3. PROCEDURE OUTCOMES, SIDE EFFECTS, AND COMPLICATIONS (11%)

- A. Assess possible procedure outcomes
 - 1. Swelling
 - 2. Redness
 - 3. Discomfort
- B. Assess procedure side effects
 - 1. Bruising
 - 2. Rashes and allergic reactions
 - 3. Nausea and vomiting
- C. Assess procedure complications
 - 1. Eye injuries
 - 2. Infections and scarring
 - 3. Ink/pigment migration
 - 4. Cold sores

PERMANENT COSMETICS THEORY EXAMINATION
SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Permanent Cosmetics 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 Safety Data Sheets (SDS) 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 practitioner encounters a client with excessive hair before a procedure, what is the best hair removal process?
- a. Laser
 - b. Shaving
 - c. Electrolysis
 - d. Chemical
10. Going too far outside of the vermillion line can result in a
- a. black line.
 - b. clown-like appearance.
 - c. blurring line.
 - d. small scar.

Answers

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