



# ALABAMA BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY AND BARBERING

## BARBER STYLING WRITTEN EXAMINATION INFORMATION

### EXAMINATIONS BY PSI SERVICES LLC

The Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering is responsible for licensing and regulating the profession of cosmetology in the State of Alabama. The Board has contracted with PSI Services, LLC (PSI) to deliver its examinations.

Candidates MUST pass the written examination before applying for the practical examination. You have one attempt to test per eligibility. If you fail you must reapply with the Board.

### SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

Once approved by the Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering, you are responsible for contacting PSI to schedule an appointment to take the examination. PSI will make every effort to schedule the examination site and time that is most convenient for you.

All questions and requests for information about the examination should be directed to:

PSI Services LLC  
3210 E Tropicana  
Las Vegas, NV 89121  
(800) 733-9267 • Fax (702) 932-2666  
[www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com)

### INTERNET REGISTRATION

For the fastest and most convenient test scheduling process, PSI recommends that candidates register for their exams using the Internet. Candidates register online by accessing PSI's registration website at [www.psiexams.com](http://www.psiexams.com). Internet registration is available 24 hours a day. In order to register by Internet, complete the steps below:

1. Log onto PSI's website, select the link associated with the Alabama examinations. Complete the associated registration form online and submit your information to PSI via the Internet.
2. Upon completion of the online registration form, you will be given the available exam dates and locations for scheduling your examination. Select your desired testing date and location.

### TELEPHONE REGISTRATION

The second fastest method of scheduling is via the telephone with PSI's Interactive Voice Response system (IVR) during non-business hours, or through live registrars during business hours.

Call (800) 733-9267, 24 hours a day and register using the Automated Registration System. Otherwise, PSI registrars are available Monday through Friday, between 6:30 am and 7:00 pm and Saturday, between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, Central Time, to schedule your appointment for the examination.

### CANCELING AN EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

You may cancel and reschedule an examination appointment without forfeiting your fee if your *cancellation notice is received 2 days before the scheduled examination date*. You may call PSI at (800) 733-9267 or fax a note to (702) 932-2666. Please note that you may also use the automated system, using a touch-tone phone, 24 hours a day in order to cancel and reschedule your appointment.

**Note:** A voice mail message is not an acceptable form of cancellation. Please use the internet, automated telephone system, or call PSI and speak to a Customer Service Representative.

### MISSED APPOINTMENT OR LATE CANCELLATION

Your registration will be invalid, you will not be able to take the examination as scheduled, and you will forfeit your examination fee, if you:

- Do not cancel your appointment 2 days before the schedule examination date;
- Do not appear for your examination appointment;
- Arrive after examination start time;
- Do not present proper identification when you arrive for the examination.

### EXAMINATION SITE CLOSING FOR AN EMERGENCY

In the event that severe weather or another emergency forces the closure of an examination site on a scheduled examination date, your examination will be rescheduled. PSI personnel will attempt to contact you in this situation. However, you may check the status of your examination schedule by calling (800) 733-9267. Every effort will be made to reschedule your examination at a convenient time as soon as possible.



## COMPUTER EXAMINATION CENTER LOCATIONS

The licensing examinations are administered at the following PSI examination centers.

### Birmingham

100 Centerview Drive, Suite 121  
Birmingham, AL 35216

*After you exit I-65 at Hwy 31, turn North on Highway 31 toward Vestavia Hills. Turn right at first traffic light onto Vestavia Parkway. Turn right at first street onto Centerview Drive. Turn left into the first parking lot.*

### Huntsville

4900 University Square, Suite 4  
Huntsville, AL 35816

*From Memorial Parkway (US-431/231), take the University Dr (US-72 W) exit. Turn right on The Boardwalk. You will come to a dead end, facing 4900 University Square.*

### Mobile

6051 - B Airport Blvd.  
Mobile, AL 36660

*From East or West, take I-10 to I-65. From I-65 take Airport Blvd West exit. The site is approximately 3 miles on Airport Blvd. Look for a small red brick office complex, on the left side of the road called the Reynold's Place. You have to make a U-turn at the next traffic light to get to the complex. Office is in the corner of the "L".*

### Montgomery

500 Interstate Park Drive  
Suite 530

Montgomery, Alabama, 36104

*From I-85, take the Perry Hill Road exit (#4). Proceed north on Perry Hill Road for little less than ¼ mile. Interstate Park Drive is located on the right (east) side of Perry Hill Road. Turn right on Interstate Park Road and proceed east for approximately ¼ mile. The office is located on the main road.*

Additionally, PSI has examination centers in many other regions across the United States. You may take the written examination at any of these locations by calling (800) 733-9267. You will need to speak with a Customer Service Rep to schedule outside of Alabama.

## REPORTING TO THE EXAMINATION CENTER

On the day of the examination, you should arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment. This extra time is for identification and familiarizing yourself with the examination process. If you arrive late, you may not be admitted to the examination center and you will forfeit your registration fee.

### REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION

Candidates need to provide two (2) forms of identification.

Candidates must register for the exam with their LEGAL first and last name as it appears on their government issued identification. All required identification below must match the first and last name under which the candidate is registered. Candidates are required to bring two (2) forms of valid (non-expired) signature bearing identification to the test site.

### PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION - Choose One

- State issued driver's license
- State issued identification card
- US Government Issued Passport
- US Government Issued Military Identification Card
- US Government Issues Alien Registration Card

### SECONDARY IDENTIFICATION - Choose One

- Credit Card (must be signed)
- Social Security Card
- US issued Birth Certificate with Raised Seal

\*NOTE: Student ID and employment ID are NOT acceptable forms of identification.

Candidates must register with the full legal name as it appears on their government issued identification. The name on the identification must be the same as the name used to register for the examination. If the candidate fails to bring proper identification or the candidate names do not match, the candidates will not be allowed to test and their examination fee will not be refunded.

### SECURITY PROCEDURES

The following security procedures will apply during the examination:

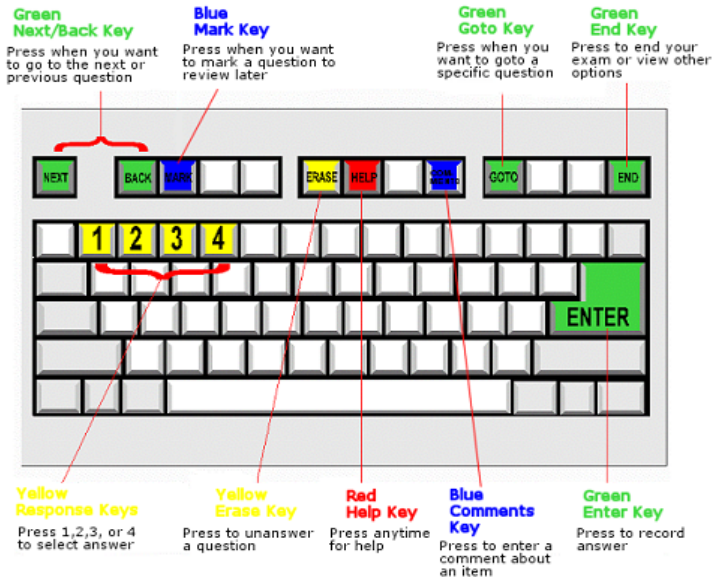
- NO conversing or any other form of communication among candidates is permitted once you enter the examination area.
- Cell phones, pagers, and children are not allowed in the examination center. **NO personal items are to enter the testing center.** PSI will not be responsible for any personal items and suggests that you leave them locked in the trunk of your car.
- No smoking, eating, or drinking will be allowed at the examination site.
- You may not exit the building during the examination.
- Copying or communicating examination content is a violation of PSI security policy and the State Law. Either one may result in the disqualification of examination results and may lead to legal action.



## TAKING THE EXAMINATION BY COMPUTER

### TAKING THE EXAMINATION BY COMPUTER

Taking the PSI examination by computer is simple. You do not need any computer experience or typing skill. You will use fewer keys than you use on a touch-tone telephone. All response keys are colored and have prominent characters. An illustration of the special keyboard is shown as follows. You may also use the mouse.



### IDENTIFICATION SCREEN

You will be directed to a semiprivate testing station to take the examination. When you are seated at the testing station, you will be prompted to confirm your name, identification number, and the examination for which you are registered.

### TUTORIAL

Before you start your examination, an introductory tutorial to the computer and keyboard is provided on screen. The time you spend on this tutorial (up to 15 minutes) does NOT count as part of your examination time. Sample questions are included as part of the tutorial so that you may practice using the keys, answering questions, and reviewing your answers.

One question appears on the screen at a time. During the examination, minutes remaining will be displayed at the top of the screen and updated as you record your answers.

### EXAMINATION QUESTION EXAMPLE

A sample question display follows. During the examination, you would press 1, 2, 3, or 4 to select your answer or press "MARK" to mark it for later review. You would then press ENTER to record your answer and move on to the next question. You can change your answer as often as you like before pressing ENTER.



**IMPORTANT:** After you have entered your responses, you will later be able to return to any question(s) and change your response, provided the examination time has not run out.

### PRETEST ITEMS

In addition to the number of examination items specified in the "Examination Content Outlines", a small number (5 to 10) of "pretest" questions may be administered to candidates during the examinations. These questions will not be scored and the time taken to answer them will not count against examination time. The administration of such unscored, experimental questions is an essential step in developing future licensing examinations.

### EXAMINATION REVIEW

The Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering is utilizing the NIC examinations. The NIC conducts ongoing analysis and review of their examinations to ensure the examinations accurately measure minimal competency in the required knowledge area.

## SCORE REPORTING

Your score will be given to you immediately following completion of the examination. This is an unofficial score report that will be printed at the examination site.

## NATIONAL COSMETOLOGY WRITTEN EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE AND REFERENCE MATERIAL

### BARBER AND COSMETOLOGY EXAMINATIONS

The National Cosmetology examination is the national licensure examination for Cosmetology, which is developed and administered by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC). For more information on the examination content outlines and references go to [www.nictesting.org](http://www.nictesting.org).



NATIONAL BARBER STYLING  
THEORY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

The National Barber Styling Theory Examination is the licensure examination for Barber Stylists, 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, and references. The time allowed for the Barber Styling Theory Examination is 90 minutes.

**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.*

**BARBER STYLING THEORY EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE**

1. **SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS (27%)**
  - A. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles and practice of infection control as it relates to:
    1. Microbiology
      - a. Bacteria
      - b. Viruses
      - c. Parasites
      - d. Immunity
      - e. Prevention
    2. Methods of infection control
      - a. Sanitation
      - b. Disinfection
      - c. Sterilization

3. Federal Regulations
    - a. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) guidelines
    - b. Universal precautions
    - c. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
    - d. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
    - e. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  4. First Aid
    - a. Minor bleeding and wounds
    - b. Minor burns
    - c. Minor eye irritation
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of basic human anatomy as it relates to:
1. Cells
  2. Tissues
  3. Organs
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of basic physiology (body systems) as it relates to:
1. Skeletal system
    - a. Head
    - b. Face
    - c. Neck
  2. Muscular system
    - a. Head
    - b. Face
    - c. Neck
  3. Nervous system
    - a. Head
    - b. Face
    - c. Neck
  4. Circulatory system
  5. Endocrine system
  6. Digestive system
  7. Respiratory system
  8. Integumentary system
  9. Excretory system
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of chemistry as it relates to:
1. Matter
  2. The pH scale
  3. Effects of nutrition on hair, scalp, and skin
  4. Compounds
  5. Mixtures
  6. Product ingredients
  7. Product labeling
  8. Product safety
- E. Demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of electricity as it relates to:
1. Electric current
  2. Electric measurements
  3. Electricity in barber-styling
    - a. Electrotherapy
    - b. Light therapy

**2. HAIR CARE SERVICES (40%)**

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of trichology as it relates to:
  - 1. Properties and structure of the hair and scalp
    - a. Shaft
      - i. Cuticle
      - ii. Cortex
      - iii. Medulla
    - b. Root
      - i. Follicle
      - ii. Bulb
      - iii. Papilla
      - iv. Arrector pili muscle
      - v. Sebaceous gland
  - 2. Hair analysis and hair quality
    - a. Porosity
    - b. Texture
    - c. Elasticity
    - d. Density
  - 3. Hair growth stages
  - 4. Hair loss
    - a. Types
    - b. Treatments
  - 5. Disorders of the hair and scalp
    - a. Types
    - b. Treatments
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of performing a client consultation as it relates to:
  - 1. Desired look
  - 2. Face shape
  - 3. Hair analysis
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for draping for all hair services
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of concepts needed for haircutting and styling as it relates to:
  - 1. Elements of hair design
    - a. Form
    - b. Shape
    - c. Line
    - d. Color
    - e. Wave pattern
  - 2. Principles of hair design
    - a. Proportion
    - b. Balance
    - c. Symmetry
  - 3. Facial shapes

- E. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for shampooing, conditioning, massage, and brushing as it relates to:
1. Shampooing
    - a. Product selection
    - b. Procedure
  2. Conditioning
    - a. Product selection
    - b. Procedure
  3. Scalp massage
    - a. Types of manipulations
    - b. Procedure
  4. Scalp treatments
    - a. Product selection
    - b. Procedure
    - c. Equipment
- F. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for haircutting as it relates to:
1. Basic principles of haircutting
    - a. Areas of the head
    - b. Elevation or projection
    - c. Lines and angles
    - d. Crosschecking
    - e. Texturizing
  2. Tools, implements, and equipment
    - a. Types
    - b. Selection
    - c. Care and maintenance
  3. Safety
  4. Body positioning
  5. Basic haircuts
    - a. Blunt
    - b. Layered
    - c. Tapered
  6. Haircutting procedures
  7. Neck shaving procedures
- G. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for head shaving as it relates to:
1. Preparation
  2. Shaving procedure
  3. Safety
- H. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for hairstyling as it relates to:
1. Wet Styling
    - a. Types of styles
    - b. Tools and implements
    - c. Procedures
    - d. Product selection
  2. Thermal styling
    - a. Types of styles
    - b. Tools and implements
    - c. Procedures
    - d. Product selection
  3. Natural hairstyling (e.g., braids, locks, etc.)
  4. Safety

- I. Demonstrate an understanding of wigs, hair pieces, and hair enhancements as it relates to:
  - 1. Materials and construction
  - 2. Supplies
  - 3. Sizing
  - 4. Attachment methods
  - 5. Styling
  - 6. Maintenance

- J. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for chemical services as it relates to:
  - 1. Chemical Texture
    - a. Chemical waving
      - i Application procedures
      - ii Product selection
    - b. Reformation curls
      - i Application procedures
      - ii Product selection
    - c. Chemical relaxing
      - i Application procedures
      - ii Product selection
  - 2. Haircolor and lightening (including facial hair)
    - a. Color theory
      - i Law of color
      - ii Tone
      - iii Level
    - b. Application procedures
    - c. Product selection
  - 3. Safety

**3. FACIAL HAIR SERVICES (17%)**

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of performing a client consultation as it relates to:
  - 1. Skin analysis
  - 2. Health history
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for draping for all facial hair services
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for shaving and facial hair designing as it relates to:
  - 1. Tools and implements
  - 2. Facial shaving
    - a. Preparation
    - b. Positions and strokes
  - 3. Mustaches and beards
    - a. Preparation
    - b. Products
  - 4. Safety

**4. SKIN CARE AND FACIAL SERVICES (16%)**

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of skin histology as it relates to:
  - 1. Anatomy of the skin
    - a. Layers of the skin
    - b. Nerves of the skin
    - c. Glands of the skin
    - d. Types of skin
    - e. Skin pigmentation
    - f. Aging of the skin
  - 2. Functions of the skin
  - 3. Disorders of the skin



- B. Demonstrate an understanding of performing a client consultation as it relates to:
  - 1. Skin analysis
  - 2. Health history
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for draping for all skin care and facial services
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of procedures for facials as it relates to:
  - 1. Tools and implements
  - 2. Equipment
  - 3. Products and materials
  - 4. Types of facial massage manipulations
  - 5. Types of facial treatments
  - 6. Electrotherapy and light therapy
  - 7. Safety
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of types of temporary hair removal

### **BARBER STYLING SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Barber Styling Theory Examination. Each question is followed by four answer options. Only one option is correct. Correct answers (keys) are listed following the sample questions.

1. Anthrax and tetanus bacilli form which of the following types of spore?
  - a. Mitosis
  - b. Flagella
  - c. Spherical
  - d. Infectious
2. All French style shears
  - a. are cobalt metal.
  - b. have a finger brace.
  - c. are made in France.
  - d. have tight pivots.
3. Prior to a shaving service the headrest must be
  - a. washed and dried.
  - b. disinfected and covered.
  - c. washed and removed.
  - d. sanitized and sterilized.
4. To avoid damage to muscle tissue, the movements of a massage are directed
  - a. away from the origin of the muscle.
  - b. toward the origin of the muscle.
  - c. around the origin of the muscle.
  - d. above the origin of the muscle.
5. Which of the following can permanently relieve split ends?
  - a. Applying oil to the ends
  - b. Using a styling gel on the ends
  - c. Moistening the ends
  - d. Cutting the ends

6. The diameter of a single strand of hair is also called
  - a. growth pattern.
  - b. porosity.
  - c. density.
  - d. texture.
  
7. What should be performed **FIRST** before applying permanent hair color?
  - a. Strand test
  - b. Patch test
  - c. Curl test
  - d. Texture test
  
8. Before sodium hydroxide processing, hair should be analyzed to determine its
  - a. acidity.
  - b. alkalinity.
  - c. texture, porosity and elasticity.
  - d. density, color and end bonds.

**Answers**

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

## BARBER STYLING REFERENCES

### PRIMARY REFERENCES

*Milady's Standard Professional Barbering, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2011*

Author: Maura Scali-Sheahan, Ed D

Milady

5 Maxwell Drive

Clifton Park NY 12065-2919

[www.milady.cengage.com](http://www.milady.cengage.com)

*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)

### SUPPORTING REFERENCES

*Milady's Standard Professional Barbering, 2006*

Author: Maura Scali-Sheahan

Delmar Learning

5 Maxwell Drive

Clifton Park NY 12065-2919

[www.milady.cengage.com](http://www.milady.cengage.com)