Test Type: The Cosmetology/Cosmetologist assessment was developed based on a Pennsylvania statewide competency task list and contains a multiple-choice and performance component. This assessment is meant to measure technical skills at the occupational level and includes items which gauge factual and theoretical knowledge.

Revision Team: The assessment content is based on input from Pennsylvania educators who teach in approved career and technical education programs.
NOCTI written assessments consist of questions to measure an individual’s factual theoretical knowledge.

**Administration Time:** 3 hours  
**Number of Questions:** 200  
**Number of Sessions:** This assessment may be administered in one, two, or three sessions.

### Areas Covered

- **Bacteriology, Disinfection, and Sanitation:** 6%  
- **Professional Business Practices and Law:** 8%  
- **Histology/Physiology:** 10%  
- **Trichology:** 4%  
- **Chemistry:** 5%  
- **Skin Care:** 11%  
- **Electricity:** 3%  
- **Shampoo and Conditioning Treatment:** 5%  
- **Hair Shaping:** 8%  
- **Hair Styling:** 14%  
- **Chemical Texture Services:** 7%  
- **Hair Coloring:** 11%  
- **Nail Technology:** 8%
Specific Standards and Competencies Included in this Assessment

**Bacteriology, Disinfection, and Sanitation**
- Define the classifications and reproduction of bacteria and viruses
- Define and compare the differences between sanitation, disinfection, and sterilization
- Perform infection control procedures for various salon tools and services
- Administer Universal Precautions

**Professional Business Practices and Law**
- Prepare and maintain client documentation following a successful client consultation
- Identify and demonstrate professional ethics
- Demonstrate effective communication skills, to include listening, speaking, and writing in order to communicate with customers
- Identify, interpret, and follow safety regulations, including MSDS and OSHA
- Demonstrate an understanding of the Cosmetology laws, rules, and regulations

**Histology/Physiology**
- Identify the structure and composition of the integumentary system
- Identify the structure and composition of the nail
- Identify the structure and composition of the skeletal system
- Identify the structure and composition of the muscular system
- Identify the functions of the integumentary system
- Identify the functions of the nail
- Identify body structures and systems
- List the functions of the skeletal system

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Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

**Trichology**
- Identify the structure and composition of the hair
- Identify diseases and disorders of the hair and scalp
- Analyze the characteristics of a client’s hair and scalp

**Chemistry**
- Measure effects of pH pertaining to hair and skin
- Differentiate between the physical and chemical changes involved in various hair services
- Assess chemical reactions as they relate to various services

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Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

Skin Care
- Identify the diseases and disorders of the skin
- Perform a skin analysis on a client
- Drape client for basic skin care service
- Select a product based on individual client needs
- Perform a basic facial on a client
- Identify skin care implements and equipment
- Identify multiple methods of temporary hair removal
- Apply basic daytime makeup on a client

Electricity
- Review the safety measures related to electricity
- Explain the types, uses, and benefits of light therapy

Shampoo and Conditioning Treatment
- Demonstrate draping for all hair services
- Determine a product based on individual client needs
- Perform various shampoo and conditioning treatments on a client

Hair Shaping
- Demonstrate proper handling of haircutting tools
- Demonstrate various haircutting techniques with shears
- Demonstrate various haircutting techniques with a razor
- Demonstrate various clipper cutting techniques
- Perform various texturizing techniques

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Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

**Hair Styling**
- Identify hairstyling implements and equipment
- Select a hairstyle to compliment the client’s features
- Perform roller setting and comb-out techniques
- Perform pin curl setting and comb-out techniques
- Perform braiding techniques
- Demonstrate the use of a Marcel iron
- Demonstrate blow drying techniques
- Demonstrate hair pressing techniques showing soft, medium, and hard press
- Select and apply styling products according to client’s needs
- Identify uses of specialty hairstyling equipment
- Perform application and styling services on wigs, hair pieces, and extensions

**Chemical Texture Services**
- Select appropriate products for chemically straightening hair
- Demonstrate various chemical relaxing services
- Demonstrate various wrapping techniques
- Select the appropriate solution according to client’s needs
- Demonstrate a permanent wave service

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Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

**Wired Hair Coloring**
- Perform and evaluate a strand test
- Perform a semi-permanent/demi-permanent hair color service
- Perform a permanent hair color service
- Perform a hair lightener and toner application
- Demonstrate techniques for creating special effects
- Demonstrate corrective color techniques
- Formulate color as it relates to the law of color

**Nail Technology**
- Prepare a manicure table
- Identify nail care implements and equipment
- Perform a basic manicure on a client
- Perform massage treatments on the hands and feet
- Demonstrate knowledge of pedicure procedures
- Identify nail diseases and disorders
Sample Questions

Client records or files allow the stylist to
A. discuss stylist qualifications before the service
B. refer clients to other stylists in the salon
C. retain all information about the service performed
D. give coupons to clients and friends

Porosity of the hair refers to the ability of the hair to absorb
A. lanolin
B. moisture
C. heat
D. cystine

What is the main purpose of draping the client?
A. safety
B. comfort
C. fashion
D. warmth

To hold a hairstyle in a finished look, the cosmetologist should apply
A. hairspray
B. liquid gel or texturizer
C. foam or mousse
D. silicone spray

Reusable implements include a/an
A. metal cuticle pusher
B. emery board
C. orangewood stick
D. chamois cloth

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Sample Questions (continued)

The bacteria known as staphylococci can manifest itself as
A. pityriasis  
B. alopecia  
C. dermatitis  
D. an abscess

A primary component of hair, nails, and skin is
A. keratin  
B. aniline  
C. sebum  
D. chloride

Healthy hair and skin have a pH in the range of
A. 4.5 to 5.5  
B. 7.0 to 8.0  
C. 9.5 to 10.5  
D. 11.0 to 12.0

"Comedone" is the technical term for
A. a boil  
B. a blackhead  
C. a whitehead  
D. acne

Prevent electrical burns by carefully _____ equipment.
A. inspecting  
B. grounding  
C. marking  
D. rinsing
NOCTI performance assessments allow individuals to demonstrate their acquired skills by completing actual jobs using the tools, materials, machines, and equipment related to the technical area.

Administration Time: 3 hours  
Number of Jobs: 4

Areas Covered:

26% 90-Degree Haircut  
Participants will demonstrate the ability to complete a 90-degree haircut on a mannequin using appropriate personal and client safety and sanitation procedures. Participants will properly drape the mannequin, section hair for control, and perform a 90-degree haircut using both a razor and shears.

26% Blow Dry, Curl, and Press Hair  
Participants will perform a blow dry service on a mannequin using appropriate personal and client safety and sanitation procedures. Participants will properly drape the mannequin, wet and section hair, and perform the service using a round brush. Thermal tools will then be used to straighten one section and curl another section of the hair.

32% Chemical Applications  
Participants demonstrate the ability to perform chemical services using appropriate personal and client safety and sanitation procedures. Participants will properly drape a mannequin, section hair into quadrants, and perform a retouch, foil highlights, chemical relaxer, and a perm wrap.

16% Manicure  
Participants will perform a manicure on either a live model or artificial hand using appropriate personal and client safety and sanitation procedures. Participants will properly prepare the workstation and tools and perform a full manicure including a hand massage.

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Sample Job

Chemical Applications

**Maximum Time:** 40 minutes

**Participant Activity:** Participant will use the right rear quadrant to complete a mock tint retouch assuming 1-inch of new growth; use the left rear quadrant and complete six foil highlights (three weave and three slice); use the right front quadrant to complete a virgin (first-time) “no base” chemical relaxer; use the left front quadrant and measuring from the top front hairline, wrap one section within the quadrant; leave the workstation in a clean and orderly condition