



NATIONAL ELECTROLOGY  
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 Electrology Theory Examination is the national licensure examination for Electrologists, 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 Electrology 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**

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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 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.*

**ELECTROLOGY THEORY EXAMINATION  
CONTENT OUTLINE**

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The following outlines the scope of content covered by the NIC National Electrology 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 - 45%**

- A. Infection Control and Safety Practices
  - 1. Identify how diseases and infections are caused and transmitted
  - 2. Apply principles of infection control
    - a. Levels of infection control
      - i. Cleaning/Sanitation
      - ii. Disinfection
      - iii. Sterilization
    - b. Contamination and cross-contamination
  - 3. Apply procedures for blood exposure incident
  - 4. Identify requirements of government agencies (e.g., CDC, OSHA, EPA, FDA)
- B. Human Anatomy and Physiology
  - 1. Identify structure and functions of the skin
  - 2. Identify structure and growth cycle of hair
  - 3. Identify structure and functions of physiological systems
    - a. Nervous
    - b. Muscular
    - c. Circulatory
    - d. Endocrine
- C. Identify Signs and Symptoms of Conditions, Disorders, and Diseases Related to Skin and Hair
- D. Basic Concepts of Electricity
  - 1. Recognize characteristics of electricity and electrical measurement
  - 2. Identify types of currents
    - a. Direct
    - b. Alternating
  - 3. Differentiate between modalities of Electrolysis
    - a. Galvanic
      - i. Anaphoresis
      - ii. Cataphoresis
    - b. Thermolysis
    - c. Blend
  - 4. Applies principles of electrical safety

**2: Electrology Procedures and Services - 55%**

- A. Client Consultation, Analysis and Documentation for Electrology Services
  - 1. Analyze condition of skin and hair
  - 2. Identify contraindications related to electrolysis service
  - 3. Identify how hair removal methods differ (e.g., waxing, depilatories, laser)
  - 4. Determine method and product selections
  - 5. Maintain client records (e.g., service history, medical history, release forms)
- B. Items Utilized During Electrology Services
  - 1. Identify purpose function of items
    - a. Equipment (e.g., machine, magnification, treatment table)
    - b. Implements (e.g., probe, tweezers)
    - c. Supplies, products, and materials (e.g., gloves, antiseptic, linens, drapes)

C. Electrolysis Procedures

1. Indicate and demonstrate procedures for electrolysis methods
  - a. Client preparation
  - b. Electrolysis methods
    - i. Galvanic
    - ii. Thermolysis
    - iii. Blend
  - c. Probe selection, insertion, depth, and angle
2. Perform post service processes
  - a. Cataphoresis
  - b. After care
  - c. Follow up

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**ELECTROLOGY THEORY EXAMINATION**  
**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

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The following sample questions are similar to those on the NIC Electrology Written Examination. Each question is followed by four answer choices. Only one choice is correct. Correct answers are listed following the sample questions.

1. Disease producing bacteria are called
  - a. hyperemia.
  - b. pathogenic.
  - c. hypoallergenic.
  - d. nonpathogenic.
  
2. Which of the following would result in the greatest production of lye?
  - a. Increase both current and time
  - b. Decrease both current and time
  - c. Increase current and decrease time
  - d. Decrease current and increase time
  
3. Hair grows from the papilla by multiplication of the
  - a. matrix cells.
  - b. stratum lucidum.
  - c. papillary layer.
  - d. reticular region.
  
4. What temporary method of hair removal accelerates the shedding of the horny layer of the skin?
  - a. Bleaching
  - b. Depilatory
  - c. Threading
  - d. Clipping
  
5. Electrolysis is recognized as the only proven method of permanent hair removal by the
  - a. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
  - b. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
  - c. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
  - d. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Answers	
1. b	4. b
2. a	5. b
3. a	