

TX Cosmetology Operator Exam: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do we re-drape after each procedure, or just when needed or when a different drape is requested?
*You must redrape when a new drape is requested, or if redraping is needed to keep the client and the workstation in sanitary condition.
2. Do we raise a hand after completing each procedure?
*You raise a hand to indicate that you have completed the entire section, and that you're ready to move on to the next section. Keep in mind that if the candidate doesn't complete all tasks in a section, and all candidates raise their hands to move on before the time is up, the candidate may NOT return and complete tasks he or she remembers later.
3. Do we move on to the next procedure when finished with one?
*The proctor will announce the start of each section of the examination (i.e., Shampoo Service, Hair Shaping Service, Chemical Application Preparation, etc.). You may only begin the tasks for the section after the proctor announces the section and says, "Begin." Any tasks begun before the proctor says "Begin" will not be rated, and thus the candidate will not receive points for them.
4. Do we still sanitize before and after each procedure?
*You must maintain a sanitary workstation throughout the examination. You must also act in a manner that protects the model/mannequin at all times. If that requires you to sanitize before and after each procedure, then do so. Please read the bulletin for specific task lines that state when hands must be sanitized.
5. Do we still pack each step in a separate bag?
*How you pack is entirely up to you. If you pack in such a way that clean implements are contaminated with dirty ones, you will lose points for sanitation. Packing each section's implements in a separate bag would probably be the easiest plan and would make it less likely that implements get contaminated, but it's not required.
6. Do we tape our trash bag to the station?
*You may do so if you would like to do so.
7. Do we need only one manicure bowl?
*The candidate must soak 5 fingers in a finger bowl. The candidate should use as many bowls as necessary to be able to soak that many fingers. For most models, one bowl should be sufficient.
8. Does the model get up and leave immediately when finished, or will someone dismiss him/her?
*The proctor will instruct the candidates to dismiss their models when the model's portion of the exam is complete. At the end of the last section that requires a

model, the proctor will remind the models to leave.

9. Do we need to change bottles for each chemical procedure/application?
*As long as the bottle is labeled "mock chemical" you do not need to change bottles. Please remember that you must remove products from bottles without contamination, however, so use as many bottles/jars/brushes/etc. as you need to accomplish this.
10. It looks like there are no steps to the shampoo. Do we still place the mannequin in the neck part of the bowl, drape it, and shampoo it in the same manner as we would a customer, doing the massage and everything as before?
*If a step is not listed, it is not rated. Therefore, if you see no steps other than washing the mannequin, then that's all that must be done. Candidates can go above and beyond the requirements, but will only receive points for the task lines specifically written in the Candidate Bulletins (CIBs). Only the task lines in the CIBs will be graded, but every single task line in the CIB will be graded, unless otherwise noted.
11. Can we use the same plastic cape as long as we switch from chemical (towel, cape, towel) to neckstrip/etc.?
*As long as the cape remains sanitary. If it becomes obviously soiled, the candidate could lose points for sanitation if she or he doesn't replace the cape with a clean one.
12. Do we drape the blow drying & thermal curling service with a combout cape?
*The type of cape is not specified, so you may use any type you'd like.
13. Do we need to use styling lotions for the blow drying & thermal curling service?
*As this is not mentioned in the task lines, it will not be rated on the examination.
14. Are the items on the supply lists in the bulletins absolutely required?
*No. The lists include recommended supplies, but candidates will not be turned away if they don't bring some of these supplies. However, candidates may lose points during the exam if they are unable to perform the required tasks due to a lack of supplies.
15. What are some possible reasons for candidate dismissal?
*If a candidate persistently talks to his/her model or other candidates or if a candidate cheats on the exam, the candidate may be dismissed.
16. If a candidate does not complete all of the tasks in a specific section by the end of the allotted time for that section, how will the candidate be scored?
*The candidate will not receive points for any tasks he/she did not complete within the allotted time period. However, he/she will receive points for all of the tasks he/she was able to complete before the time expired.

17. What happens to candidates who arrive late to the practical?
*Since candidates are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the practical, a candidate arriving after the practical is supposed to begin will have to reschedule his/her exam and pay for the exam again.
18. What happens if a *model* arrives late or does not show?
*The candidate can choose to take the exam and lose points for sections requiring a model, or may choose to reschedule the exam and pay for the exam again.
19. How can candidates obtain the most up-to-date information about the practical exam requirements?
*Candidates may download this information at www.psiexams.com or call PSI at 1-800-733-9267.