



# Texas Class A Barber

Solution key

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1. Before clipper blades are used on a new client, they must be:

- A. Sterilized in an autoclave after each client
- B. Wipe with a dry cloth only
- C. Rinsed with water and dried
- D (correct). Disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant spray**

Rationale: Clipper blades must be disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant spray between each client to prevent the spread of scalp conditions, bacteria, and bloodborne pathogens.

2. What is "pomade" used for in barbering?

- A (correct). Add shine, hold, and definition to styled hair**
- B. Protect hair from heat styling tools
- C. Lighten the hair color over time
- D. Condition and repair damaged hair

Rationale: Pomade is a styling product used to add shine, hold, and definition to hair. Traditional pomades are oil-based (longer hold, higher shine); water-based pomades wash out more easily.

3. How must clean, disinfected implements be stored?

- A. In an open container on the counter
- B. Next to the disinfectant jar
- C (correct). In a clean, covered container or drawer separate from soiled tools**
- D. Wrapped in a paper towel until needed

Rationale: Disinfected implements must be stored in a clean, covered container or drawer — separate from soiled tools — to maintain their disinfected status.

4. A Texas licensee who practices cosmetology or barbering with an expired license is subject to:

- A (correct). Civil penalties, fines, and potential disciplinary action from TDLR**
- B. Automatic suspension of the establishment license
- C. No penalty if the license expired less than 30 days ago
- D. A written warning on the first offense only

Rationale: Practicing with an expired license is a violation of the Texas Barbering and Cosmetology Act and can result in civil penalties, fines, and potential disciplinary action from TDLR.

5. Texas cosmetology school programs require a minimum of how many training hours for a cosmetology operator license?

- A (correct). 1,000 hours**
- B. 500 hours
- C. 1,500 hours
- D. 750 hours

Rationale: Texas requires a minimum of 1,000 training hours in an approved cosmetology school before a candidate may sit for the licensing examination.

6. How many training hours are required for a Texas Class A Barber license?

- A. 1,000 hours
- B (correct). 1,500 hours**
- C. 2,000 hours
- D. 500 hours

Rationale: Texas requires a minimum of 1,500 training hours at a licensed barbering school before a candidate may sit for the Class A Barber licensing examination.

7. What is the purpose of wearing gloves when applying chemical services?

- A (correct). Protect from chemical burns, skin sensitization, and absorption of harmful chemicals**
- B. Required only when using bleach products
- C. They eliminate the need for an SDS review
- D. They improve grip on tools during chemical services

Rationale: Gloves protect the practitioner from chemical burns, skin sensitization, and absorption of potentially harmful chemicals during color, perm, and relaxer services.

8. Which of the following is required on the label of every professional chemical product?

- A (correct). Product name, hazard warnings, and manufacturer information**
- B. The salon's name and purchase date
- C. Pricing and expiration date only
- D. Instructions for use and fragrance ingredients only

Rationale: OSHA Hazard Communication Standard requires labels with the product name, hazard warnings, and manufacturer information.

9. If a TDLR inspector finds a violation during a salon inspection, the establishment owner must:

- A. Appeal all violations to avoid correcting them
- B (correct). Correct violations within the timeframe specified in the inspection report**
- C. Close the establishment until violations are reviewed
- D. Ignore the violations and wait for a follow-up inspection

Rationale: Violations cited during a TDLR inspection must be corrected within the timeframe specified in the inspection report. Failure to correct violations can result in escalating penalties.

10. Under Texas law, a TDLR inspector may enter a salon or barbershop:

- A. Only on scheduled inspection dates
- B. Only after a formal complaint has been filed
- C. Only with a court order
- D (correct). At any time during normal business hours without prior notice**

Rationale: TDLR inspectors have authority to enter and inspect licensed premises at any time during normal business hours without prior notice to ensure compliance with health and safety rules.

11. Sebum is produced by which gland in the scalp?

- A. Arrector pili muscles
- B (correct). Sebaceous glands**
- C. The dermal papilla

D. Sudoriferous (sweat) glands

Rationale: The sebaceous glands produce sebum, the natural oil that lubricates and conditions the hair and scalp. Overproduction leads to oily scalp conditions; underproduction leads to dryness.

12. Which part of the hair is the only living portion?

- A. The cortex
- B. The cuticle layer
- C. The hair shaft

**D (correct). The hair follicle (dermal papilla)**

Rationale: The hair follicle (specifically the dermal papilla) is the only living part of the hair. The visible hair shaft is composed of dead, keratinized cells.

13. What is the purpose of clipper oil?

- A. Disinfect the blade between clients
- B. Make clippers cut closer to the skin

**C (correct). Lubricate blades, reduce heat, prevent rust, and extend blade life**

D. Clean hair and debris from between the teeth

Rationale: Clipper oil lubricates the moving metal blades, reduces friction-generated heat, prevents rust and corrosion, and extends the life of the blades.

14. The three phases of the hair growth cycle in correct order are:

- A. Telogen, anagen, catagen
- B. Catagen, telogen, anagen

**C (correct). Anagen, catagen, telogen**

D. Anagen, telogen, catagen

Rationale: The anagen (active growth) phase lasts 2–7 years. Catagen (transitional) phase lasts 2–3 weeks. Telogen (resting/shedding) phase lasts 3–4 months before the cycle repeats.

15. What is the purpose of an autoclave?

- A. Circulate disinfectant chemical through a sealed chamber
- B. Use UV light to kill surface bacteria
- C. Dry heat metal instruments to 400°F

**D (correct). Use steam under pressure to sterilize instruments completely**

Rationale: An autoclave uses steam under pressure (~250°F/121°C) to sterilize instruments by destroying all microorganisms including bacterial endospores.

16. Which scalp condition is characterized by white or yellowish flakes and itching?

- A. Psoriasis
- B. Seborrheic dermatitis
- C. Tinea capitis

**D (correct). Pityriasis (dandruff)**

Rationale: Pityriasis (dandruff) is the most common scalp condition, characterized by excessive shedding of dead skin cells. It can be dry (white flakes) or oily (yellowish flakes).

17. How often must disinfectant solution in a wet sanitizer jar be changed?

- A. Once a week
- B. Once a month

**C (correct). Daily or whenever visibly contaminated**

D. After every single use

Rationale: Disinfectant solution becomes contaminated over time and loses efficacy. It must be changed daily or whenever visibly contaminated.

18. What is the technical term for split ends?

- A. Alopecia
- B (correct). Trichoptilosis**
- C. Hypertrichosis
- D. Pityriasis

Rationale: Trichoptilosis is the technical term for split ends, which occur when the protective cuticle is worn away and the inner cortex of the hair shaft splits.

19. Which of the following best describes the difference between bacteriostatic and bactericidal agents?

- A. Bacteriostatic agents kill bacteria; bactericidal agents only slow growth
- B (correct). Bacteriostatic agents inhibit bacterial growth; bactericidal agents kill bacteria**
- C. Bacteriostatic agents are stronger and required for all salon tools
- D. Both terms describe the same level of disinfection

20. The clipper-over-comb technique is used to:

- A. Cut hair in a straight horizontal line
- B (correct). Blend and taper hair by running clippers over a comb held at varying angles**
- C. Lift hair with a comb and cut with scissors only
- D. Remove bulk from thick hair using a razor

Rationale: Clipper-over-comb blends and tapers hair by holding a comb against the head at varying angles and running clippers over it. It is a foundational barbering technique for creating smooth gradients.

21. Hot towels are applied before a straight razor shave to:

- A. Remove excess oil and product from the beard
- B. Disinfect the skin before razor contact
- C (correct). Soften beard hair, open follicles, and relax skin to reduce razor burn**
- D. Cool the skin to close pores before shaving

Rationale: Hot towels soften the beard by hydrating the hair shaft (making it easier to cut), open the follicle, and relax the skin — reducing the risk of razor burn and nicks.

22. Which of the following is required to be posted in a Texas salon or barbershop in addition to the establishment license?

- A. Only the establishment license at the front desk
- B. A copy of the health inspection report only
- C. No postings are required — licenses are held digitally
- D (correct). Individual practitioner licenses at each workstation, plus establishment license and complaint contact info**

Rationale: Texas requires that individual practitioner licenses be displayed at each workstation and that the establishment license, inspection reports, and consumer complaint contact information be accessible to clients.

23. The three main layers of the hair shaft from outer to inner are:

- A. Cortex, cuticle, medulla
- B. Epidermis, dermis, cortex
- C. Medulla, cortex, cuticle
- D (correct). Cuticle, cortex, medulla**

Rationale: The cuticle is the outer protective layer of overlapping scales. The cortex gives hair its strength, elasticity, and color. The medulla is the innermost soft core (absent in fine hair).

24. Used straight razor blades must be disposed of in:

- A. In a sealed plastic bag in the trash
- B. In the regular trash bin
- C. Returned to the manufacturer for recycling

D (correct). In a puncture-resistant sharps container

Rationale: Used razor blades (sharps) must be disposed of in a puncture-resistant sharps container to prevent needle-stick injuries and comply with OSHA bloodborne pathogen standards.

25. Which of the following is a requirement for a Texas salon or barbershop establishment license?

**A (correct). Hold a valid TDLR establishment license posted conspicuously**

B. Only individual practitioner licenses are required

C. No license is required for sole proprietorships

D. Register with the local health department only

Rationale: Texas law requires all salon and barbershop establishments to hold a valid TDLR establishment license and post it in a conspicuous location within the business.

26. Which type of disinfectant is EPA-registered and most commonly required for non-porous tools in Texas salons?

A. Soap and hot water

B. Isopropyl alcohol only

C. Bleach diluted in water

**D (correct). EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant (quats or phenolics)**

Rationale: EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectants (quaternary ammonium compounds or phenolics) are required for non-porous implements in Texas cosmetology and barbering establishments.

27. Which pathogen causes ringworm (tinea capitis) of the scalp?

A. A virus

B. A parasitic worm

C. A bacterium

**D (correct). A dermatophyte fungus**

Rationale: Tinea capitis is caused by a dermatophyte fungus — not a worm. It is highly contagious and requires refusal of service.

28. What is the primary route of transmission for head lice in a salon?

**A (correct). Direct head-to-head contact and shared tools, combs, and linens**

B. Skin-to-skin contact with the hands

C. Contaminated water in the shampoo bowl

D. Airborne droplets in the salon

Rationale: Head lice spread through direct head-to-head contact and shared tools, combs, and linens. Proper disinfection prevents salon transmission.

29. Hair texture is determined by the:

A. Porosity of the hair shaft

**B (correct). Diameter of the individual hair strand**

C. Elasticity of the cortex bonds

D. Color depth of the melanin

Rationale: Hair texture (fine, medium, coarse) is determined by the diameter of the individual hair strand. Fine hair has a smaller diameter; coarse hair has a larger diameter.

30. A client has tinea capitis. What should the licensee do?

A. Complete the service but disinfect all tools after

**B (correct). Refuse service and refer the client to a physician**

C. Use an antifungal shampoo and continue

D. Proceed carefully using extra gloves

Rationale: Tinea capitis (scalp ringworm) is a contagious fungal infection. Services must be refused and the client referred to a physician. Providing service risks spreading the infection.

31. What does hair elasticity refer to?

- A. The diameter of the hair strand
- B (correct). The hair's ability to stretch and return to original length without breaking**
- C. The hair's natural color depth
- D. The hair's resistance to chemical services

Rationale: Elasticity is the hair's ability to stretch and return to its original length without breaking. Healthy hair can stretch up to 50% of its length when wet. Poor elasticity indicates damage.

32. Which of the following conditions requires the licensee to refuse service?

- A. A client with dry, flaky scalp
- B. A client with dandruff
- C. A client with a minor cut on their arm
- D (correct). A client with head lice (pediculosis)**

Rationale: Head lice (pediculosis) is contagious and requires refusal of service until the infestation is treated.

33. The cortex of the hair contains what bonds that give hair its shape?

- A. Peptide bonds only
- B. Salt bonds only
- C (correct). Hydrogen bonds and disulfide bonds**
- D. Covalent and ionic bonds only

Rationale: The cortex contains disulfide bonds (permanent) and hydrogen bonds (temporary). Permanent waves and chemical relaxers work by breaking and reforming disulfide bonds.

34. Pseudofolliculitis barbae (razor bumps) is caused by:

- A. A bacterial infection from an unclean razor
- B. An allergic reaction to shaving cream
- C. A fungal condition of the beard follicles
- D (correct). Hair curling back into the skin as it regrows, causing inflammation**

Rationale: Pseudofolliculitis barbae occurs when cut hair curls back into the skin as it regrows, causing inflammation. It is more common in men with curly or coarse facial hair.

35. What is a scalp massage most beneficial for during a shampoo service?

- A. Reduces scalp oil production
- B (correct). Stimulates blood circulation to nourish hair follicles**
- C. Removes product buildup from the scalp
- D. Opens the cuticle for better product penetration

Rationale: Scalp massage stimulates blood circulation to the scalp, which nourishes the hair follicles and encourages healthy hair growth. It also relaxes the client.

36. A client presents with acne pustules on their face. The barber should:

- A. Proceed carefully with light pressure
- B. Use a closer blade angle to avoid the pustules
- C. Apply antiseptic and proceed as normal
- D (correct). Modify or refuse the service — shaving over pustules risks spreading infection**

Rationale: Active acne pustules are infected lesions. Shaving over them risks spreading infection, causing scarring, or introducing pathogens into open skin. Services should be modified or refused.

37. A Texas cosmetology or barbering license must be displayed:

- A. Only if a client requests to see it
- B. In a back office drawer
- C (correct). In plain view of clients at the workstation**
- D. Mailed to TDLR for safekeeping

Rationale: Texas law requires that a current, valid license be displayed in plain view of clients at the workstation where services are performed.

38. When designing a beard neckline, the line should generally follow:

- A. At the Adam's apple
- B. Straight across the bottom of the chin
- C (correct). An arc from ear to ear, dipping to approximately two fingers above the Adam's apple**
- D. Following the jawline exactly

Rationale: The natural beard neckline follows an arc from one ear, dipping to approximately two finger-widths above the Adam's apple, and back up to the other ear.

39. What is the minimum contact time required for most disinfectants to be effective on salon implements?

- A (correct). The full immersion time listed on the disinfectant label**
- B. 30 seconds is always sufficient for any EPA-registered disinfectant
- C. 5 minutes regardless of the product label instructions
- D. Contact time is irrelevant as long as the implement is fully submerged

40. The term "pathogen" refers to:

- A. Any chemical substance found in salon products
- B (correct). Any microorganism capable of causing disease**
- C. A type of allergen found in hair dye
- D. A virus that only affects plants

Rationale: A pathogen is any microorganism capable of causing disease — bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Preventing pathogen transmission is the primary goal of salon disinfection.

41. Alum block is used in barbering primarily to:

- A. Soften the beard for the next shave
- B. Reduce post-shave redness from chemical exposure
- C. Disinfect all tools after the shave service
- D (correct). Stop minor bleeding from razor nicks and provide mild antiseptic action**

Rationale: Alum block (potassium alum) is a natural mineral that stops minor bleeding from razor nicks by acting as a styptic (blood coagulant) and mild antiseptic.

42. What is the recommended number of shave passes for a classic straight razor service?

- A. Two passes: with grain then against grain
- B (correct). Three passes: with grain, across grain, against grain**
- C. One pass only
- D. As many passes as needed with no standard

Rationale: A professional straight razor shave typically involves three passes: with the grain (ATG), across the grain (XTG), and against the grain (ATG) for the closest result.

43. What is the difference between cleaning and disinfecting?

- A. They are the same process
- B. Disinfecting always comes before cleaning
- C (correct). Cleaning removes dirt physically; disinfecting uses chemicals to kill pathogens**
- D. Cleaning kills pathogens; disinfecting removes dirt

Rationale: Cleaning removes dirt and debris physically. Disinfecting uses a chemical to kill pathogens. Cleaning must occur before disinfecting — disinfectants are less effective on dirty surfaces.

44. How often must a Texas cosmetology or barbering license be renewed?

- A. Every 5 years
- B. Every 3 years
- C. Every 1 year

**D (correct). Every 2 years**

Rationale: Texas cosmetology and barbering licenses must be renewed every two years. Failure to renew results in an expired license, and practicing with an expired license is a violation.

45. Which of the following describes hair that has been chemically over-processed?

- A. High shine and smooth cuticle
- B. Tightly closed cuticle with low moisture absorption
- C. Extremely low porosity and high elasticity

**D (correct). Extreme porosity, poor elasticity, gummy texture when wet**

Rationale: Over-processed hair has a damaged, weakened cuticle and cortex, resulting in extreme porosity, lack of elasticity, breakage, and a gummy feel when wet.

46. What is the primary purpose of the barber's consultation before a haircut?

- A (correct). Identify desired style, hair type, and any concerns to plan the appropriate technique**
- B. Check if the client has paid for the service
- C. Sell the client additional products
- D. Determine which clipper guard to start with

Rationale: The client consultation identifies the desired style, hair type, and any concerns (thinning, scalp conditions, previous chemical services), allowing the barber to plan the appropriate technique.

47. What is the purpose of "outlining" (also called edging or lining) in a barber haircut?

- A. Blend the transition between the top and sides
- B. Add length to the hairline
- C. Taper the nape hair into a V-shape

**D (correct). Create crisp, clean definition at the hairline around ears, neck, and sideburns**

Rationale: Outlining creates crisp, clean definition at the hairline — around the ears, neck, and sideburns — using a trimmer or straight razor for a finished, professional appearance.

48. What is the term for the natural pigment that gives hair its color?

- A. Sebum
- B. Keratin
- C (correct). Melanin**
- D. Collagen

Rationale: Melanin is the pigment produced by melanocytes in the hair follicle. Eumelanin produces brown/black tones; pheomelanin produces red/yellow tones.

49. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are required to provide information about:

- A. Only the product ingredients and fragrance profile
- B. Pricing and wholesale ordering information
- C (correct). Hazard information, safe handling, PPE requirements, and emergency response**
- D. Instructions for mixing chemical formulas

Rationale: SDS provide hazard information, safe handling instructions, PPE requirements, and emergency response procedures for chemical products.

50. What is the correct order of steps when disinfecting tools at a cosmetology or barbering station?

- A (correct). Clean, rinse, disinfect, rinse, dry**
- B. Rinse, disinfect, clean, dry
- C. Disinfect, rinse, clean, dry
- D. Disinfect, clean, rinse, dry

Rationale: Tools must be cleaned before disinfection — disinfectants cannot penetrate organic matter.

The correct sequence is: clean, rinse, disinfect, rinse, dry.

51. Texas law requires that a client complaint procedure be:

- A. Available only in the employee break room
- B. Filed with the establishment license in a locked cabinet
- C. Provided only if a client specifically asks
- D (correct). Posted visibly so clients can access TDLR complaint contact information**

Rationale: Texas regulations require salons and barbershops to make TDLR complaint contact information available to clients, typically by posting the TDLR complaint notice in a visible location.

52. What does "zero gap" mean when applied to clippers or trimmers?

- A (correct). Aligning the clipper blades to cut as close to the skin as possible without a guard**
- B. Closing the blade so no hair can be cut
- C. Removing the clipper guard for a #0 cut only
- D. Setting the clipper to its widest blade gap

Rationale: Zero gapping means adjusting the clipper or trimmer blades so they are perfectly aligned, allowing the tool to cut as close to the skin as possible without a guard.

53. Under the Texas Barbering and Cosmetology Act, which of the following actions by a licensee may result in license revocation?

- A. Missing a single license renewal deadline
- B. Only if convicted of a felony
- C (correct). Fraud in obtaining license, practicing while impaired, or repeated violations**
- D. Using an out-of-state product brand

Rationale: TDLR may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew a license for fraud in obtaining a license, practicing while impaired, conviction of a crime related to the profession, or repeated violations.

54. Which clipper guard number removes the most hair (leaves the least length)?

- A. Guard #6
- B. Guard #4
- C. Guard #8
- D (correct). Guard #1**

Rationale: Clipper guard #1 leaves approximately 1/8 inch of hair. Guard #0 (no guard) cuts closest to the scalp. Lower numbers remove more hair; higher numbers leave more length.

55. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the salon most commonly includes:

- A (correct). Gloves, safety glasses, and protective aprons as appropriate**
- B. Nitrile gloves only, no other equipment required
- C. A lab coat only
- D. A face mask and hairnet only

Rationale: PPE for salon professionals includes gloves when handling chemicals or during blood exposure risk, safety glasses, and protective aprons as appropriate.

56. Which of the following requires a separate specialty license in Texas rather than a standard cosmetology operator license?

- A. Shampooing and conditioning services
- B. Hair coloring services
- C. Blow-drying and styling
- D (correct). Esthetics (skin care), manicuring, and hair braiding**

Rationale: Esthetics (skin care), manicuring, and hair braiding each require separate specialty licenses in Texas. A cosmetology operator license does not automatically authorize all these services.

57. What is the arrector pili muscle?

- A. The innermost layer of the hair shaft
- B. A blood vessel that nourishes the follicle
- C (correct). A small muscle attached to each follicle that causes hair to stand upright**
- D. A nerve ending in the scalp

Rationale: The arrector pili is a small muscle attached to each hair follicle. When it contracts due to cold or fear, it causes the hair to stand upright, producing goosebumps.

58. HIV is classified as which type of pathogen?

- A. A food-borne pathogen
- B (correct). A bloodborne pathogen**
- C. An airborne pathogen
- D. A waterborne pathogen

Rationale: HIV is a bloodborne pathogen. Accidental cuts are the primary risk in salon settings. Standard disinfection protocols protect against HIV transmission.

59. What is the term for shaving in the direction opposite to hair growth?

- A. Using no angle on the razor blade
- B (correct). Shaving in the direction opposite to hair growth**
- C. Shaving in the direction of hair growth
- D. Shaving across the grain at 90 degrees

Rationale: Against-the-grain shaving cuts hair below the surface of the skin for a closer shave but increases the risk of ingrown hairs and razor burn, especially on sensitive skin.

60. What is the term for the area of the head where the hairline naturally rounds from the side to the back?

- A. The temple area on the sides of the head
- B (correct). The area where the hairline naturally rounds from the side to the back at the nape**
- C. The top of the head at the crown
- D. The parietal ridge at the widest part of the head

Rationale: The occipital bone area (nape region) is where the natural recession of the hairline meets the back of the head. Barbers must recognize this area to create natural-looking tapers and fades.

61. The purpose of a strop when using a traditional straight razor is to:

- A (correct). Realign the microscopic teeth of the blade edge to maintain cutting smoothness**
- B. Remove metal to restore sharpness (honing)
- C. Disinfect the blade between uses
- D. Cool the blade after extended use

Rationale: A leather strop aligns (realigns) the microscopic teeth of the blade's edge, maintaining sharpness and smooth cutting performance. It does not remove metal like honing does.

62. How many continuing education hours are required for renewing a Texas cosmetology or barber license?

- A. 8 hours
- B (correct). 4 hours**
- C. 2 hours
- D. 12 hours

Rationale: Texas requires 4 hours of continuing education per two-year renewal period for cosmetology and barbering licensees.

63. The term "porosity" in hair science refers to:

- A. How quickly hair dries after washing
- B (correct). How readily the hair absorbs and retains moisture**
- C. The natural wave pattern of the hair

D. The hair's resistance to breakage under tension

Rationale: Porosity describes how readily the hair absorbs and retains moisture. High porosity hair absorbs quickly but loses moisture fast. Low porosity hair resists absorption but retains moisture well.

64. The pH of the hair and scalp is approximately:

- A. 2.0–3.0 — strongly acidic
- B (correct). 4.5–5.5 — slightly acidic**
- C. 7.0 — neutral
- D. 8.5–9.5 — alkaline

Rationale: The natural pH of hair and scalp is slightly acidic at 4.5–5.5. This slightly acidic environment keeps the cuticle closed and the scalp healthy.

65. Before performing any shave service, the barber should conduct a:

- A. Check the client's appointment history only
- B (correct). Identify skin type, beard density, growth direction, and any contraindications to customize the service**
- C. Determine which brand of shaving cream to use
- D. Confirm the client wants a straight razor vs safety razor

Rationale: A facial analysis identifies skin type, beard density and growth direction, skin conditions (acne, sensitivity, ingrown hairs), and any contraindications — allowing the barber to customize the service.

66. What minimum age must a person be to apply for a Texas cosmetology operator or Class A Barber license?

- A. 18 years old
- B (correct). 17 years old**
- C. 16 years old
- D. 21 years old

Rationale: Applicants for a Texas cosmetology operator or Class A Barber license must be at least 17 years of age at the time of application.

67. Which of the following best describes a bactericide?

- A. A natural antibacterial derived from plants
- B. A product that removes bacteria without chemicals
- C. A chemical that inhibits bacterial growth without killing them
- D (correct). A chemical that kills bacteria**

Rationale: A bactericide kills bacteria. A bacteriostat only inhibits growth. Salon disinfectants must be bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal to meet Texas TDLR requirements.

68. A client arrives with an open sore on their scalp. The licensee should:

- A. Apply antiseptic and cover the area before proceeding
- B (correct). Refuse service until the condition has healed**
- C. Proceed carefully while wearing gloves
- D. Refer the client to a dermatologist and continue the service

Rationale: Services on skin with open sores or active infections risk cross-contamination and harm. Services must be refused until the condition heals.

69. How must soiled towels and linens be stored in a Texas salon or barbershop?

- A. Left on the counter until end of day
- B (correct). In a closed, covered container separate from clean linens**
- C. On the floor near the workstation
- D. Mixed with clean linens and washed later

Rationale: Texas regulations require soiled linens to be stored in a closed, covered container

separate from clean linens to prevent cross-contamination.

70. Hair texture affects clipper work because:

- A (correct). Coarse/thick/curly hair may require more passes and different guard sizes for the same visual result**
- B. Fine hair always requires a higher guard number
- C. It has no effect on clipper technique
- D. Curly hair must always be cut dry

Rationale: Coarse, thick, or curly hair requires more passes with the clipper and may require different guard sizes compared to fine, straight hair to achieve the same visual result.

71. Beard trimming with scissors requires the barber to:

- A. Cut without combing to preserve natural direction
- B. Trim only with clippers, never scissors
- C. Wet the beard thoroughly before any trimming
- D (correct). Comb the beard upward or outward to capture all hairs evenly in the cut**

Rationale: Combing the beard upward or outward before trimming ensures all hairs are captured in the cut, producing an even, blended result.

72. What does "honing" a straight razor accomplish?

- A. Polish the blade for a smoother finish
- B. Disinfect the blade surface
- C (correct). Remove microscopic metal to restore sharpness when stropping is no longer sufficient**
- D. Align the blade edge without removing metal

Rationale: Honing uses a whetstone to remove microscopic metal from the blade edge, restoring sharpness when the blade has dulled beyond what stropping can correct.

73. Under Texas regulations, which of the following chemicals is prohibited from being used by cosmetologists and barbers on clients?

- A. Ammonium thioglycolate perm solution
- B. Hydrogen peroxide developer
- C. Sodium hydroxide relaxer
- D (correct). Liquid methyl methacrylate (MMA) monomer**

Rationale: Texas regulations (16 TAC Chapter 83) prohibit the use of any chemical, preparation, or procedure that contacts or penetrates the dermis layer of the skin — this includes liquid methyl methacrylate (MMA) monomer.

74. Single-use items such as neck strips, cotton rounds, and wooden applicators must be:

- A (correct). Used once then discarded**
- B. Autoclaved between clients
- C. Washed with soap and water between clients
- D. Disinfected and stored for reuse

Rationale: Single-use items are used on one client then discarded. They cannot be disinfected and reused — reuse creates a cross-contamination risk.

75. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the Texas Barbering and Cosmetology Act?

- A (correct). Protect public health and safety by establishing standards and disciplinary authority**
- B. Generate revenue for the state through licensing fees
- C. Limit competition among cosmetology businesses
- D. Standardize pricing for cosmetology services

Rationale: The Texas Barbering and Cosmetology Act protects public health and safety by establishing licensing requirements, practice standards, sanitation rules, and disciplinary authority.

76. EPA-registered salon disinfectants must be effective against which three categories of microorganisms?

- A. Bacteria and viruses only
- B. Bacteria only
- C (correct). Bacteria, viruses, and fungi**
- D. Viruses and fungi only

Rationale: Salon disinfectants must be bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal to meet the minimum safety standard for professional use.

77. Which of the following is a non-porous surface that can be effectively disinfected?

- A (correct). A metal shear blade**
- B. A wooden cuticle pusher
- C. A porous sponge applicator
- D. A fabric cape

Rationale: Non-porous materials (metal, glass, hard plastic) can be fully disinfected. Porous materials absorb disinfectants unevenly and cannot be reliably disinfected.

78. A high fade is characterized by:

- A. The fade is performed only on the nape
- B. The fade begins near the nape and ears
- C. The hair on top is cut very short
- D (correct). The bare skin area starts high on the sides and back near the top of the head**

Rationale: A high fade starts very close to the top of the head, with the skin-bare area beginning high on the sides and back. A low fade starts near the nape and ears.

79. What is the purpose of shaving cream or gel in a shave service?

- A. Open pores for a deeper shave
- B (correct). Lubricate the skin, soften beard hair, and protect against razor irritation**
- C. Condition and strengthen the beard
- D. Disinfect the skin surface

Rationale: Shaving cream/gel lubricates the skin to reduce friction, softens beard hair to allow a closer cut, and protects the skin from razor irritation.

80. What is alopecia?

- A (correct). Hair loss**
- B. An allergic reaction to color chemicals
- C. Excessive hair growth
- D. A fungal scalp infection

Rationale: Alopecia is the medical term for hair loss, which can be caused by genetics, hormonal changes, medical conditions, or traction from tight hairstyles.

81. What does "sanitation" mean in the context of a salon?

- A (correct). Reduce microbial contamination to safe levels but not eliminate all pathogens**
- B. Kill all bacteria but not viruses
- C. Destroy all microbial life including spores
- D. Remove all physical debris from a surface

Rationale: Sanitation reduces microbial contamination to safe levels but does not eliminate all pathogens. It is a lower level than disinfection or sterilization.

82. What is the technique of blending longer hair on top to shorter hair on the sides called?

- A. Shaping only the hairline without cutting length
- B. Applying a texturizer to loosen the curl pattern
- C. Cutting all hair to the same uniform length
- D (correct). Gradually transitioning hair length from longer at the crown to shorter at the sides and nape**

Rationale: Fading (or tapering) gradually transitions hair length from longer at the crown to shorter

or bare skin at the sides and nape, using clippers and blending techniques.

**83.** A licensee cuts a client and draws blood. What is the correct first response?

- A (correct). Stop service, cover wound, remove and disinfect contaminated tools**
- B. Continue the service wearing gloves
- C. Discard all tools and continue with new ones
- D. Apply antiseptic and continue immediately

Rationale: Service stops immediately. The wound is covered, contaminated tools removed and disinfected, and the area cleaned per bloodborne pathogen protocols.

**84.** What is the function of the dermal papilla?

- A (correct). Supplies nutrients to the hair matrix cells via blood vessels, driving hair growth**
- B. Produces the hair's natural oil (sebum)
- C. Determines the natural curl pattern of the hair
- D. Contains melanocytes that produce hair pigment

Rationale: The dermal papilla is a cluster of cells at the base of the hair follicle that contains blood vessels and nerves. It supplies nutrients to the hair matrix cells, driving hair growth.

**85.** What is the maximum civil penalty per day that can be assessed against a Texas salon or barbershop for each violation?

- A. \$100 per day
- B (correct). \$1,000 per day**
- C. \$500 per day
- D. \$5,000 per day

Rationale: Under Texas Occupations Code, TDLR can assess civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day per violation for cosmetology and barbering establishments.

**86.** What is the term for excessive, unwanted hair growth on the face or body?

- A. Trichoptilosis
- B (correct). Hypertrichosis**
- C. Alopecia
- D. Monilethrix

Rationale: Hypertrichosis is the general term for excessive hair growth. Hirsutism refers specifically to male-pattern hair growth in women. Both can be caused by hormonal or genetic factors.

**87.** A Texas cosmetology or barber school must maintain student training records for a minimum of:

- A. 10 years
- B (correct). 5 years**
- C. 2 years
- D. 1 year

Rationale: Texas regulations require cosmetology and barbering schools to maintain student training records including hours logs for a minimum of 5 years after the student leaves the program.

**88.** The four natural growth patterns that affect haircut planning include:

- A. The client's hair color and porosity only
- B. The amount of product the client uses daily
- C (correct). Whorls, widow's peaks, nape growth direction, and recession patterns**
- D. Whether the client has had chemical services previously

Rationale: Natural growth patterns — such as whorls (cowlicks), widow's peaks, nape growth direction, and recession patterns — affect how hair falls and must be accounted for in cut planning.

89. Which state agency licenses and regulates cosmetologists, barbers, and estheticians in Texas?

- A. Texas State Board of Cosmetology (TSBOC)
- B. Texas Workforce Commission
- C (correct). Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)**
- D. Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Rationale: The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) regulates all barbering and cosmetology professionals in Texas under the Barbering and Cosmetology Act.

90. The scissors-over-comb technique in barbering is most useful for:

- A. Remove bulk from the crown only
- B. Create a blunt one-length cut
- C (correct). Blend the transition zone where faded sides meet longer top hair**
- D. Cut thick sections of hair in one pass

Rationale: Scissors-over-comb is used to cut and blend hair in areas where clippers would be too aggressive, such as blending the transition zone between faded sides and longer top hair.

91. What product is applied after a shave to soothe the skin and close pores?

- A (correct). Soothe razor irritation, close pores, provide mild antiseptic action**
- B. Soften the beard before the next shave
- C. Stimulate beard growth
- D. Lock in moisture like a heavy oil

Rationale: Aftershave lotion or toner is applied post-shave to soothe razor irritation, close open pores, provide mild antiseptic action, and leave the skin feeling refreshed.

92. In Texas, the Barbering and Cosmetology Act is enforced by:

- A (correct). TDLR — Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation**
- B. The Texas State Board of Health
- C. The local county health department
- D. The Texas Attorney General's office

Rationale: TDLR enforces the Texas Barbering and Cosmetology Act, which governs licensing, establishment standards, continuing education, and disciplinary actions.

93. What is the correct angle for holding a straight razor during a shave?

- A. 15 degrees
- B. 90 degrees (perpendicular)
- C (correct). 30 degrees**
- D. 60 degrees

Rationale: A straight razor is held at approximately 30 degrees against the skin. This angle allows the blade to cut hair cleanly without dragging or causing razor burn.

94. The "skin fade" or "bald fade" refers to:

- A. Hair tapers to a #1 guard at the nape only
- B. A fade that starts high and ends at a #2 guard
- C (correct). Hair tapers completely down to bare skin at the lowest point of the fade**
- D. Hair is cut to a uniform short length throughout

Rationale: A skin fade (bald fade) tapers the hair completely down to the bare skin at the sides and back, with no visible hair at the lowest point of the fade.

95. What is the minimum contact time required for most EPA-registered disinfectants to effectively kill pathogens?

- A. 30 minutes
- B (correct). 10 minutes**
- C. 5 minutes
- D. 1 minute

Rationale: Most EPA-registered salon disinfectants require a minimum of 10 minutes of full immersion

contact time to achieve label kill claims.

**96.** Before performing a straight razor shave, the barber must disinfect the razor by:

- A. Wiped with a dry cloth only
- B. Sterilized in an autoclave weekly
- C. Rinsed under hot running water

**D (correct). Disinfected with EPA-registered disinfectant or blade changed for each client**

Rationale: Straight razors must be disinfected with an EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant between clients. Disposable straight razor blades must be changed for each client.

**97.** What is the difference between a fade and a taper in terms of beard shaping?

- A (correct). A taper gradually reduces length; a fade reduces to skin level**
- B. Both require a straight razor
- C. A fade keeps some length; a taper goes to bare skin
- D. They are the same technique with different names

Rationale: A beard taper gradually reduces length from the cheeks/mustache area toward the neckline. A fade reduces hair from fuller coverage to skin level, typically near the jawline or neck.

**98.** What is the primary protein that makes up the hair shaft?

- A. Elastin
- B. Melanin
- C. Collagen

**D (correct). Keratin**

Rationale: Keratin is the fibrous protein that forms the structure of hair, skin, and nails. Hair is approximately 95% keratin.

**99.** Under Texas state rules, which items must be discarded after a single use and cannot be disinfected for reuse?

- A (correct). Single-use porous items such as nail files, buffers, and cotton pads**
- B. Metal clippers and shears, which can be sterilized between clients
- C. Plastic combs, provided they are rinsed with water between uses
- D. Glass manicure bowls, which are soaked overnight

**100.** What term describes the process of destroying all microbial life including spores?

- A. Sanitation
- B. Decontamination
- C. Disinfection

**D (correct). Sterilization**

Rationale: Sterilization destroys all microbial life including resistant spores. Disinfection kills most pathogens but not all spores. Sterilization is required for invasive tools.