



Texas Class A Barber

Practice test

April 6, 2026

Time limit: 120 minutes

Official exam page

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Online timed practice

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Answer key for this session (PDF):

californiacerts.com/resources/pdfs/tx-barber/tx-barber-practice-solution.pdf

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. Disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant spray
2. What is "pomade" used for in barbering?
 - A. 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
3. How must clean, disinfected implements be stored?
 - A. In an open container on the counter
 - B. Next to the disinfectant jar
 - C. In a clean, covered container or drawer separate from soiled tools
 - D. Wrapped in a paper towel until needed
4. A Texas licensee who practices cosmetology or barbering with an expired license is subject to:
 - A. 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
5. Texas cosmetology school programs require a minimum of how many training hours for a cosmetology operator license?
 - A. 1,000 hours
 - B. 500 hours
 - C. 1,500 hours
 - D. 750 hours

6. How many training hours are required for a Texas Class A Barber license?
- A. 1,000 hours
 - B. 1,500 hours
 - C. 2,000 hours
 - D. 500 hours
7. What is the purpose of wearing gloves when applying chemical services?
- A. 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
8. Which of the following is required on the label of every professional chemical product?
- A. 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
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 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
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. At any time during normal business hours without prior notice
11. Sebum is produced by which gland in the scalp?
- A. Arrector pili muscles
 - B. Sebaceous glands
 - C. The dermal papilla
 - D. Sudoriferous (sweat) glands
12. Which part of the hair is the only living portion?
- A. The cortex
 - B. The cuticle layer
 - C. The hair shaft
 - D. The hair follicle (dermal papilla)
13. What is the purpose of clipper oil?
- A. Disinfect the blade between clients
 - B. Make clippers cut closer to the skin
 - C. Lubricate blades, reduce heat, prevent rust, and extend blade life
 - D. Clean hair and debris from between the teeth
14. The three phases of the hair growth cycle in correct order are:
- A. Telogen, anagen, catagen
 - B. Catagen, telogen, anagen
 - C. Anagen, catagen, telogen
 - D. Anagen, telogen, catagen
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. Use steam under pressure to sterilize instruments completely
16. Which scalp condition is characterized by white or yellowish flakes and itching?
- A. Psoriasis
 - B. Seborrheic dermatitis
 - C. Tinea capitis
 - D. Pityriasis (dandruff)
17. How often must disinfectant solution in a wet sanitizer jar be changed?
- A. Once a week
 - B. Once a month
 - C. Daily or whenever visibly contaminated
 - D. After every single use
18. What is the technical term for split ends?
- A. Alopecia
 - B. Trichoptilosis
 - C. Hypertrichosis
 - D. Pityriasis

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. 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. 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
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. Soften beard hair, open follicles, and relax skin to reduce razor burn
 - D. Cool the skin to close pores before shaving
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. Individual practitioner licenses at each workstation, plus establishment license and complaint contact info
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. Cuticle, cortex, medulla
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. In a puncture-resistant sharps container
25. Which of the following is a requirement for a Texas salon or barbershop establishment license?
- A. 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
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. EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant (quats or phenolics)
27. Which pathogen causes ringworm (tinea capitis) of the scalp?
- A. A virus
 - B. A parasitic worm
 - C. A bacterium
 - D. A dermatophyte fungus
28. What is the primary route of transmission for head lice in a salon?
- A. 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
29. Hair texture is determined by the:
- A. Porosity of the hair shaft
 - B. Diameter of the individual hair strand
 - C. Elasticity of the cortex bonds
 - D. Color depth of the melanin
30. A client has tinea capitis. What should the licensee do?
- A. Complete the service but disinfect all tools after
 - B. Refuse service and refer the client to a physician
 - C. Use an antifungal shampoo and continue
 - D. Proceed carefully using extra gloves
31. What does hair elasticity refer to?
- A. The diameter of the hair strand
 - B. 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

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. A client with head lice (pediculosis)
33. The cortex of the hair contains what bonds that give hair its shape?
- A. Peptide bonds only
 - B. Salt bonds only
 - C. Hydrogen bonds and disulfide bonds
 - D. Covalent and ionic bonds only
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. Hair curling back into the skin as it regrows, causing inflammation
35. What is a scalp massage most beneficial for during a shampoo service?
- A. Reduces scalp oil production
 - B. Stimulates blood circulation to nourish hair follicles
 - C. Removes product buildup from the scalp
 - D. Opens the cuticle for better product penetration
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. Modify or refuse the service — shaving over pustules risks spreading infection
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. In plain view of clients at the workstation
 - D. Mailed to TDLR for safekeeping
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. An arc from ear to ear, dipping to approximately two fingers above the Adam's apple
 - D. Following the jawline exactly
39. What is the minimum contact time required for most disinfectants to be effective on salon implements?
- A. 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. Any microorganism capable of causing disease
 - C. A type of allergen found in hair dye
 - D. A virus that only affects plants
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. Stop minor bleeding from razor nicks and provide mild antiseptic action
42. What is the recommended number of shave passes for a classic straight razor service?
- A. Two passes: with grain then against grain
 - B. Three passes: with grain, across grain, against grain
 - C. One pass only
 - D. As many passes as needed with no standard
43. What is the difference between cleaning and disinfecting?
- A. They are the same process
 - B. Disinfecting always comes before cleaning
 - C. Cleaning removes dirt physically; disinfecting uses chemicals to kill pathogens
 - D. Cleaning kills pathogens; disinfecting removes dirt
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. Every 2 years

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. Extreme porosity, poor elasticity, gummy texture when wet
46. What is the primary purpose of the barber's consultation before a haircut?
- A. 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
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. Create crisp, clean definition at the hairline around ears, neck, and sideburns
48. What is the term for the natural pigment that gives hair its color?
- A. Sebum
 - B. Keratin
 - C. Melanin
 - D. Collagen
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. Hazard information, safe handling, PPE requirements, and emergency response
 - D. Instructions for mixing chemical formulas
50. What is the correct order of steps when disinfecting tools at a cosmetology or barbering station?
- A. Clean, rinse, disinfect, rinse, dry
 - B. Rinse, disinfect, clean, dry
 - C. Disinfect, rinse, clean, dry
 - D. Disinfect, clean, 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. Posted visibly so clients can access TDLR complaint contact information
52. What does "zero gap" mean when applied to clippers or trimmers?
- A. 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
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. Fraud in obtaining license, practicing while impaired, or repeated violations
 - D. Using an out-of-state product brand
54. Which clipper guard number removes the most hair (leaves the least length)?
- A. Guard #6
 - B. Guard #4
 - C. Guard #8
 - D. Guard #1
55. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the salon most commonly includes:
- A. 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
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. Esthetics (skin care), manicuring, and hair braiding
57. What is the arrector pili muscle?
- A. The innermost layer of the hair shaft
 - B. A blood vessel that nourishes the follicle
 - C. A small muscle attached to each follicle that causes hair to stand upright
 - D. A nerve ending in the scalp

58. HIV is classified as which type of pathogen?
- A. A food-borne pathogen
 - B. A bloodborne pathogen
 - C. An airborne pathogen
 - D. A waterborne pathogen
59. What is the term for shaving in the direction opposite to hair growth?
- A. Using no angle on the razor blade
 - B. Shaving in the direction opposite to hair growth
 - C. Shaving in the direction of hair growth
 - D. Shaving across the grain at 90 degrees
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. 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
61. The purpose of a strop when using a traditional straight razor is to:
- A. 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
62. How many continuing education hours are required for renewing a Texas cosmetology or barber license?
- A. 8 hours
 - B. 4 hours
 - C. 2 hours
 - D. 12 hours
63. The term "porosity" in hair science refers to:
- A. How quickly hair dries after washing
 - B. 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
64. The pH of the hair and scalp is approximately:
- A. 2.0–3.0 — strongly acidic
 - B. 4.5–5.5 — slightly acidic
 - C. 7.0 — neutral
 - D. 8.5–9.5 — alkaline
65. Before performing any shave service, the barber should conduct a:
- A. Check the client's appointment history only
 - B. 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
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. 17 years old
 - C. 16 years old
 - D. 21 years old
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. A chemical that kills bacteria
68. A client arrives with an open sore on their scalp. The licensee should:
- A. Apply antiseptic and cover the area before proceeding
 - B. Refuse service until the condition has healed
 - C. Proceed carefully while wearing gloves
 - D. Refer the client to a dermatologist and continue the service
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. In a closed, covered container separate from clean linens
 - C. On the floor near the workstation
 - D. Mixed with clean linens and washed later
70. Hair texture affects clipper work because:
- A. 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

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- D. Curly hair must always be cut dry
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. Comb the beard upward or outward to capture all hairs evenly in the cut
72. What does "honing" a straight razor accomplish?
- A. Polish the blade for a smoother finish
 - B. Disinfect the blade surface
 - C. Remove microscopic metal to restore sharpness when stropping is no longer sufficient
 - D. Align the blade edge without removing metal
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. Liquid methyl methacrylate (MMA) monomer
74. Single-use items such as neck strips, cotton rounds, and wooden applicators must be:
- A. Used once then discarded
 - B. Autoclaved between clients
 - C. Washed with soap and water between clients
 - D. Disinfected and stored for reuse
75. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the Texas Barbering and Cosmetology Act?
- A. 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
76. EPA-registered salon disinfectants must be effective against which three categories of microorganisms?
- A. Bacteria and viruses only
 - B. Bacteria only
 - C. Bacteria, viruses, and fungi
 - D. Viruses and fungi only
77. Which of the following is a non-porous surface that can be effectively disinfected?
- A. A metal shear blade
 - B. A wooden cuticle pusher
 - C. A porous sponge applicator
 - D. A fabric cape
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. The bare skin area starts high on the sides and back near the top of the head
79. What is the purpose of shaving cream or gel in a shave service?
- A. Open pores for a deeper shave
 - B. Lubricate the skin, soften beard hair, and protect against razor irritation
 - C. Condition and strengthen the beard
 - D. Disinfect the skin surface
80. What is alopecia?
- A. Hair loss
 - B. An allergic reaction to color chemicals
 - C. Excessive hair growth
 - D. A fungal scalp infection
81. What does "sanitation" mean in the context of a salon?
- A. 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
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. Gradually transitioning hair length from longer at the crown to shorter at the sides and nape

- 83.** A licensee cuts a client and draws blood. What is the correct first response?
- A. 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
- 84.** What is the function of the dermal papilla?
- A. 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
- 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. \$1,000 per day
 - C. \$500 per day
 - D. \$5,000 per day
- 86.** What is the term for excessive, unwanted hair growth on the face or body?
- A. Trichoptilosis
 - B. Hypertrichosis
 - C. Alopecia
 - D. Monilethrix
- 87.** A Texas cosmetology or barber school must maintain student training records for a minimum of:
- A. 10 years
 - B. 5 years
 - C. 2 years
 - D. 1 year
- 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. Whorls, widow's peaks, nape growth direction, and recession patterns
 - D. Whether the client has had chemical services previously
- 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. Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
 - D. Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- 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. Blend the transition zone where faded sides meet longer top hair
 - D. Cut thick sections of hair in one pass
- 91.** What product is applied after a shave to soothe the skin and close pores?
- A. 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
- 92.** In Texas, the Barbering and Cosmetology Act is enforced by:
- A. 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
- 93.** What is the correct angle for holding a straight razor during a shave?
- A. 15 degrees
 - B. 90 degrees (perpendicular)
 - C. 30 degrees
 - D. 60 degrees
- 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. Hair tapers completely down to bare skin at the lowest point of the fade
 - D. Hair is cut to a uniform short length throughout
- 95.** What is the minimum contact time required for most EPA-registered disinfectants to effectively kill pathogens?
- A. 30 minutes
 - B. 10 minutes
 - C. 5 minutes
 - D. 1 minute

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. Disinfected with EPA-registered disinfectant or blade changed for each client
97. What is the difference between a fade and a taper in terms of beard shaping?
- A. 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
98. What is the primary protein that makes up the hair shaft?
- A. Elastin
 - B. Melanin
 - C. Collagen
 - D. Keratin
99. Under Texas state rules, which items must be discarded after a single use and cannot be disinfected for reuse?
- A. 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. Sterilization