
Written and Performance Exam General Overview

- The intent of this exam is to assess the candidate’s ability to teach the skills found in the Massachusetts Technical Education Framework.
- The written exam is a state-developed exam aligned to the frameworks, which can be accessed [here](#). The performance exam is a NOCTI-developed teacher test and has been determined by DESE to align with the state frameworks.
- Many questions and tasks require a synthesis of knowledge based on experience in the field and may not be found in any book.
- Use this exam outline and the Massachusetts Technical Education Framework to focus your exam preparation.
- Candidates are encouraged to prepare for their written exam by reviewing textbooks and reference material listed as part of this exam outline. These resources can be found using online search tools, online vendors, and websites.

Written Exam

- Number of Questions: 100
- Administration Time: 3 hours
- Passing Score: 70.0%
- Administration Method: Remote Proctored Online Testing Session

Written Exam Content Coverage

9%	<i>Fundamentals of Health and Safety</i>
4%	<i>Customer Service and Salon Business Skills</i>
10%	<i>Scalp Care, Shampooing, and Conditioning</i>
8%	<i>Wet Hairstyling</i>
6%	<i>Blow Dry and Thermal Styling</i>
3%	<i>Hair Removal</i>
11%	<i>Facial Treatment and Makeup Application</i>
6%	<i>Nail Care</i>
7%	<i>Hair Shaping</i>

- 17% *Hair Coloring***
- 10% *Permanent Waving***
- 6% *Chemical Relaxing and Smoothing Techniques***
- 1% *Braiding***
- 2% *Wig and Hair Enhancements***

Written Exam Reference Materials (Reference Current Edition)

- **Milady’s Standard Textbook of Cosmetology** (Milady Publishing Company, a Division of Delmar Publisher, Inc.

Materials Needed for the Written Exam

- A four-function calculator is included in the online testing system. No other calculators are permitted.
- Scrap paper and pencil/pen are permitted.

Written Exam Sample Items

Each question on the exam consists of one incomplete sentence or question followed by four choices. Some items reference an image or diagram. A few sample items are included below; the correct answer is designated with an asterisk (*).

The pH level of a shampoo refers to its:

- a. weight.
- b. oxygen level.
- c. acidity or alkaline level. (*)
- d. filtration level.

Thinning Shears are also known as _____ shears.

- e. texturizing
- f. tapering
- g. notching
- h. all of the above (*)

NOCTI Performance Exam

- Administration Time: 4 hours and 50 minutes
- Passing Score: 70.0%
- Administration Method: Onsite at a DESE-approved Massachusetts Area Testing Center (MATC) location. Candidates must register and schedule their exam session through NOCTI.

Performance Exam Content Coverage

9% Infection Control and Safety

The candidate will demonstrate preparedness for protecting their model's health and safety by preparing their station using required supplies and materials and practicing appropriate infection control within industry-related federal, state, and local laws and OSHA safety standards.

11% Facial and Make-up

The candidate will give the model a plain facial, follow rules of safety and sanitation, and perform 14 massage movements in a slow rhythm. The model will then receive a makeover which emphasizes the model's good points and minimizes defects. Cosmetics used should harmonize and enhance the natural coloring of the skin.

18% Hair Cutting

The candidate will section the provided mannequin's hair into five sections and perform a basic even layer haircut removing one-half inch (1/2") of hair with scissors. The candidate will perform tapering using a razor (in the nape area). Next, the candidate will perform tapering using a razor in one section of the nape, perform thinning using thinning shears on coarse textured hair then, medium textured hair, and then fine textured hair on ONE side of the head.

13% Chemical Texturing Services – Permanent Waving and Virgin Chemical Hair Relaxing

The candidate will perform a 9-section perm following rules of sanitation and safety. Then block section and wrap the hair neatly around the perm rods in the crown area and apply mock perm solution to the rods. The candidate will demonstrate and explain how to perform a test curl, re-sectioning for virgin chemical relaxing, and application of mock relaxer.

12% Hair Coloring

The candidate will perform a mock hair color retouch application on one-quarter of the head. Then perform a mock virgin application of hair color on one quarter of the head. Then, perform a mock foil highlight on one-quarter of the head using a weaving method and following all safety and sanitation rules.

30% Hair Styling

The candidate will style the entire head of model using rollers on top section, 3 ridges of finger waves at the crown area followed by ridge curls, "C" shaping at sides of the head with forward sculpture curls. Candidates will then shampoo the model. The candidate will also blow-dry a hair style, set the entire style with a curling iron, and comb out iron-curled set. Once the Thermal style is complete, the candidate will style the hair into a French twist complete with teasing and smoothing, following all safety and sanitation rules.

7% **Manicuring**

The candidate will set up a manicure table in a neat and orderly manner. Give model a complete plain manicure using base coat, red nail polish and topcoat without a hand and arm massage, following all safety and sanitation rules.

Performance Exam Requirements

Candidate Supplied

Candidates must bring all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), attire/uniform (clean, professional, and closed-toe, low-heeled shoes), and any other safety items as is routinely expected to be used by an employee in the related industry. In addition, candidates must bring all materials listed below to the exam site. No borrowing from other candidates or examiners will be allowed. If the candidate does not bring what is needed to safely complete all jobs on the exam as required in the workplace, the testing session will need to be rescheduled at the candidate's expense.

- Alcohol
- All manicuring supplies (including but not limited to base coat, red nail polish, and topcoat)
- Assorted hairbrushes
- Assorted makeup brushes/applicators (disposable)
- Astringent
- Blow dryer
- Blush
- Bobby pins
- Cape (for chemical services and shampooing)
- Cleansing cream
- Clips/clamps
- Combs (for all tasks)
- Conditioner
- Cotton strip
- Cotton-tipped applicators
- Curling iron
- Disposable gloves
- End papers
- Eyeliner
- Eye shadow (including contour color and highlighting color)
- Eyebrow pencil
- Face powder
- Facial sponges (optional)
- Foil (enough to complete foiling on half head)
- Foundation
- Gel (thinned with water) for mock hair color and mock perm waving lotion, mock chemical relaxing
- Hair coloring applicator bottle or tint bowl and brush
- Hair cutting scissors
- Hair pins
- Hair spray
- Head covering (turban/towel)
- Lip color
- Mascara
- Massage cream
- Moisturizer
- Neck strips
- Nonflammable cape for thermal styling
- Permanent wave rods (12)
- Protective cream
- Razor
- Roller/pin curl clips
- Rollers (12)
- Setting lotion
- Shampoo
- Sharpener for make-up pencils
- Spatulas
- Sufficient towels
- Thinning shears
- Tissues
- Water spray bottle

The candidate is also responsible for a Universal Precautions Kit that **must** include the following items. Pre-packaged commercially prepared supplies and equipment purchased from a vendor as a kit are not allowed for this exam.

- Clean and disinfected implements in sealed containers labeled: **Disinfected**
- First Aid Kit containing bandages, disposable gloves, antiseptic wipes (**NO** alcohol wipes), and two baggies for double bagging.
- Hand Sanitizer, labeled: **Hand Sanitizer** (separate from workstation sanitizer and may not be baby wipes).
- Separate container for soiled items, labeled: **Soiled Items**. All used items go back into this bag, not the bag previously brought in.
- Trash bags and tape to attach the bag to the workstation.

Site Supplied

Additional equipment and supplies needed to complete the jobs on the performance test will be provided by the testing site.

Note: Mannequins will be provided to perform tasks. Cell phones are prohibited during the exam administration.

Performance Exam Site Requirements

Testing sites may have individual requirements based on location and any relevant and current guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).