

# Massachusetts Barber Examination

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 2017

- Q May I use small trashcans instead of trash bags for my soiled items and disposable items?*  
A Yes.
- Q Does my model need to have one inch of hair on the entire head?*  
A Barber haircuts require 1 inch of hair on top of the head and no less than ¼ inch of hair at nape and sideburn area.
- Q Do I tape the trash bags to the station or the chair?*  
A Tape is not allowed; you may tie trash bags to the arms of the barber chair.
- Q Does the model need to have visible stubble on the face for the 14-stroke shave?*  
A Yes, it is imperative that the model has VISIBLE stubble on the face for the 14-stroke shave.
- Q What if I do not have what I need to complete a certain task?*  
A Corresponding steps in the task will be marked no, which may cause the candidate to fail the examination.
- Q How important is it that I have all products labeled?*  
A It is imperative that all products are labeled or contained in the original manufacturer's bottles properly labeled.
- Q What if I (or my model) have to use the bathroom during the test?*  
A You are permitted to use the bathroom, with the Evaluator's permission. It is preferred that the candidate and their model use the facilities before the examination.
- Q Do I really need 2 forms of identification?*  
A Yes. Candidates are required to bring one legal identification with a photo and signature. The other identification must have a matching signature to the first form. If you do not have the correct identification, you will be asked to reschedule your examination and fees will apply.
- Q How long is the practical exam?*  
A You will have 2 ½ hours to complete the practical exam.

Q *Do I need to wait for the Evaluator to check the haircut before I begin the shave?*

A No, you may continue on with your next task. The Evaluator will read you instructions before the examination.

Q *What is a business casual attire shirt? Can't I wear a t-shirt to the examination?*

A The Board requires a shirt with a collar. A tie is not required.

Q *What happens if I fail the practical and pass the written or vice versa?*

A You are required to re-take either the practical or the written examination that you may have failed. You are required to pass the failed theory/practical examination within 2 years of your first exam, otherwise you to have to retake both the written and practical examination.

Q *Do I need to have my license application with me when I arrive at the test center?*

A Yes, you must have your completed and signed license application with you when you arrive at the test center, or you will be asked to reschedule on another day. Fees will apply.

Q *Will you tell me if I passed the practical?*

A Once you have completed the practical and/or the written examination, you will be given both of your test results. If you failed any portion of those examinations, instructions will be included for rescheduling. Fees will apply.

Q *If I fail the practical, can I ask the Evaluator what I did wrong?*

A Evaluators are not permitted to discuss your results. Your score sheet will include the steps on the task you performed incorrectly.

Q *What neck protection is preferred; a two-ply Professional Service Towel (PST)?*

A A 5" Professional Service Paper towel should be utilized.

Q *May I use paper towels instead of terry towels for my draping?*

A Terry cloth towels are required in your supply list.

Q *Should I dampen my model's hair prior to giving a scalp massage?*

A You may dampen your model's hair with water, but it's not required.

Q *Does the test center provide a sanitizer jar with barbicide or do I have to provide one?*

A Yes, sanitizer jars with barbicide are provided.

Q *Do the test centers provide a hone and strop for demonstrating this skill?*

A *Yes these are provided at the test centers.*

Q *May I throw my used blades in the trash when I am done with them?*

A No, used blades must be disposed of in a bio-hazard container that you bring. You will be required to take the container with you upon the completion of your exam.

Q *May I shave my model even though he has acne?*

A No, it is not recommended to shave someone who has acne. The evaluator may dismiss you and your model for safety reasons.

Q *May I bring a haircut model and a different shave model?*

A Yes you can bring a different model for the haircut and the shave. All models are required to provide proper identification. Models must be at least 16 years of age. Models must not be a cosmetologist, barber, aesthetician or manicurist or going to school for these occupations.

Q *Does it matter if I use shave gel or shave foam?*

A No. Either gel or foam may be utilized.

Q *Do I have to do a precise 14-stroke shave?*

A Pearson Vue and the Massachusetts Barber Board mandates a 14-stroke face shave be performed for the Apprentice, Alien, and Master Barber examinations.

Q *Will I fail if my barber jacket/cape is wrinkled?*

A No.

Q *What do I do if I cut my model?*

A If you cut your model, you must follow the Universal Precaution procedure regarding nicks or cuts. Universal Precautions are as follows: Apply gloves, apply liquid or powdered styptic until nick or cut is contained, bandage if necessary, and double bag all disposables in bio hazard baggies and take home with you for proper disposal. Do NOT leave rubbish in any trash receptacle at the test site.

Q *Do I have to sanitize the station before I begin?*

A Yes, everything but the mirror must be sanitized. The mirror and the entire station must be sanitized at the end of the test as well.

Q *What happens if I don't bring all my tools/supplies?*

A All of the prerequisites must be met and all your supplies/tools must be accounted for as you are setting up your station for the exam. If you do not have the proper tools for the task, you will be marked NO on that task. If you have no supplies, you will be disqualified from the exam. Fees will apply.

- Q *May I reuse a towel if I run out of towels?*  
A You cannot reuse towels, it is considered unsanitary. You will be marked no for that task on your score sheet.
- Q *May I use trimmers?*  
A No, trimmers are not allowed.
- Q *What happens if I take longer than the 2 ½ hours to complete the Practical?*  
A You will be asked to stop when your time runs out and you will be marked wrong for the remaining tasks that were incomplete.
- Q *If my shears are not 7-7 ½ inches can I still use them?*  
A If your shears are not the appropriate length, the sections pertaining to shear work will be marked "no".
- Q *May I bring my own hot lather machine to the practical test?*  
A Yes, you can bring your own hot lather machine.
- Q *If I do not have hand soap or hand sanitizer, will I still be able to test?*  
A Yes, but the sections pertaining to sanitizing your hands will be marked wrong.
- Q *Do I need to have a first aid kit?*  
A Yes, a first aid kit is required and must contain the following items: Antiseptic, bandages, multiple pairs of gloves, cotton wipes, and liquid or powdered styptic, and multiple plastic baggies labeled "BIO HAZARD".