Hairstylist

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION PACKAGE
This is an information package regarding the British Columbia Hairstylist Practical Assessment. This assessment is designed to test the scope of the practical knowledge and skills of the trade.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1 Assessment Information

Hairstylist Practical Assessment Information
Hairstylist Practical Assessment Day Schedule
Assessment Guidelines
Professional Equipment and Supplies

Section 2 Hairstylist Practical Assessment

1. Hairstylist Practical Assessment Part 1 (Morning) Instructions
   1.1 Task 1: Layered Hair Shaping
   1.2 Task 2: Colour Retouch Demonstration
   1.3 Task 3: Permanent Wave Demonstration
   1.4 Task 4: Finished Blow Dry Style
   1.5 Task 5: Curling Iron Demonstration

2. Hairstylist Practical Assessment Part 2 (Afternoon) Instructions
   2.1 Task 6: Cut, Colour and Style
   2.2 Task 7: Electric Clipper Cut

Section 3 Additional Information

Commonly Asked Questions
Definitions of Terms
Reference Materials
Section 1
Assessment Information
Hair stylist Practical Assessment Information

The following pages contain basic information about the practical assessment tasks for Hair Stylists.

Carefully review the description of each task (“Task Overview”) as well as the assessment information (“How will this task be assessed?”). Use the information there to determine the most practical approach to successfully completing each task in the time given to you. Ensure that you follow the Assessment Guidelines and adhere to the schedule provided on the next page.

Once you have registered for a practical assessment, you will be given this package, venue details and other applicable information by the assessment agency to help you prepare ahead of the exam. You will be provided with a mannequin (and a clamp) at the venue on which you will perform all tasks.

Please contact ITA if you have any questions about the assessment process or preparing your application.
Hairstylist Practical Assessment Day Schedule

The practical assessment is organized into two main parts: Part 1 (Morning) and Part 2 (Afternoon).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Arrival/Check-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:20 – 8:30</td>
<td>Briefing by Invigilator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 12 noon</td>
<td><strong>Part 1 (Morning) – 3 hours 30 minutes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The tasks may be performed in <em>any order</em>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Layered Hair Shaping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Colour Retouch Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Permanent Wave Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Finished Blow Dry Style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Curling Iron Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch (Please bring your own lunch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Part 2 (Afternoon) – 3 hours 30 minutes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The tasks must be performed in the following order:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Cut, Colour and Style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Electric Clipper Cut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment Guidelines

1. Please note that this information package may change frequently. The most recent information package is always available on the ITA website.
2. The assessment (all tasks) MUST be performed on a single mannequin. A live model is NOT required and will not be permitted in the venue.
3. Candidates will be provided with One (1) Female Mannequin with the following specifications:
   - Colour Level = medium (level 5-7)
   - Length = 9.8 inches (25 cm) uniformly layered
   - Density = medium
   - Head size = medium
4. Note that the same mannequin must be used for all the tasks.
5. Candidates are required to treat the mannequin, as much as possible, the way they would treat a real client.
6. Before calling the assessors at the completion of each task, candidates must ensure that their mannequin is firmly secured on the stand and facing toward the mirror.
7. Candidates are required to bring all professional products and supplies needed to complete services required for the assessment. No towels or any part of the supplies or equipment can be borrowed from the venue during the assessment. The assessment venue will NOT provide any equipment or supplies.
8. Candidates are NOT permitted to communicate with each other during the assessment.
9. Candidates may ask questions during the assessment, but only to the Invigilator at the venue. The Invigilator may respond or ask one of the assessors to respond, as appropriate. The Invigilator will ensure that all candidates hear the question and answer.
10. Candidates are NOT permitted to ask any questions directly to the Assessors.
11. Cell phones and other electronic devices are NOT permitted during the assessment and must be turned off. These items must be left with other personal belongings in a designated area.
12. Candidates will not have access to personal belongings during the assessment. They may access their belongings only during the lunch break and at the conclusion of the assessment.
13. The duration for the lunch break is 1 hour. Candidates are advised to bring their own lunch as there may be limited or no options to buy lunch at or near the assessment venue. If bringing own lunch, bring something that does not require refrigeration. Note that the assessment resumes for the afternoon session promptly at the time announced.
14. Note that the assessment area will be secured and closed during the lunch break. Candidates are not permitted to remain in the assessment area during the lunch break.
15. Candidates may bring the Information Package (this document) to the assessment to refer to the tasks and the assessment parameters.
16. Candidates must complete the practical assessment with a minimum mark of 70% to successfully pass the practical assessment.
17. Candidates must act in a respectful and professional manner at all times during the practical assessment.
18. Please contact ITA if you have any questions about the assessment process.
19. All pictures provided in this information package are for reference only and are subject to change. Pictures have been included to generally illustrate one of the ways in which the requirements for a particular task might be met. These pictures are intended to provide conceptual approximations only and the final results produced by each candidate may vary.
# Professional Equipment and Supplies

**What Must I Bring?**

**Essential Equipment and Supplies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blow dryer with nozzle attachment</td>
<td>Brushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curling iron(s) - Marcel iron only</td>
<td>Colour applicator (bowl / brush or bottle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric clippers (no guard attachments or interchangeable blades)</td>
<td>Professional colour and lightener products (as required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 du-all clips / jaw clips</td>
<td>Simulated colour (creams that will be visible when applied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capes</td>
<td>Shampoo and conditioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>Towels (10-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck duster</td>
<td>Water spray bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End papers</td>
<td>Styling aids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scissors / shears</td>
<td>Extension cord and / or power bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foils / foam / mesh (enough to complete 12 foils)</td>
<td>Disinfected and adequate number of tail combs and cutting combs (Note that there will be no disinfecting materials available at the assessment venue.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional perm rods with elastics (size / colour of rod is candidate’s choice)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Optional Equipment and Supplies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timer</td>
<td>Pincurl clips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck strips</td>
<td>Protective cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat styling implements</td>
<td>Razor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinning / chunking shears</td>
<td>Hair colour stain remover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taper/barbering comb (See ‘Cut, Colour and Style’ task)</td>
<td>Electric trimmers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following items are **NOT** permitted during the assessment:
- Clipper guards
- Carts
- Cutting stools
- Cellular phones / communication or recording devices / PDAs
- Spring iron
Section 2

Hairstylist Practical Assessment
Hairstylist Practical Assessment Part 1
1. Hairstylist Practical Assessment Part 1 (Morning) Instructions

Please note that you have a total of three hours thirty minutes (3 hours 30 minutes) to complete the morning session in any order. Use your time wisely, and minimize any unnecessary shampooing. Timing is based on industry input and assessment time has been included within this schedule.

You will be assessed on the following components in Part 1 of the practical assessment:

1.1 Task 1: Layered Hair Shaping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Overview</th>
<th>How will this task be assessed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Produce a layered hair shaping with the following characteristics:</td>
<td><strong>The haircut will be assessed wet.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• connected perimeter</td>
<td><em>Note: If the hair is dry when the assessors reach the candidate workstation, the assessors will use water to re-wet the hair.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• cleanly blended</td>
<td>□ Hair sectioning:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• is a layered symmetrical cut with a clean perimeter line</td>
<td>• the partings are clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• minimum of one 1 inch (2.54 cm) of hair removed from the following areas:</td>
<td>□ Hair cutting:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o nape</td>
<td>• minimum of 1 inch (2.54 cm) is removed in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o right side</td>
<td>• the haircut is free of obvious visual imperfections (scissor / shear lines)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o left side</td>
<td>• the exterior and interior connects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o top or front</td>
<td>□ The perimeter is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o crown</td>
<td>• symmetrical / balanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• scissors only, no point cutting or texturizing</td>
<td>• clean and connected continuously with no major divots or bare spots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><strong>Shampoo the mannequin at the start of the task.</strong></em></td>
<td>□ The interior is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><strong>Hair is not to be swept up until after the task is assessed.</strong></em></td>
<td>• symmetrical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• blended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call the Assessors at the end of Task 1
1.2 Task 2: Colour Retouch Demonstration

Task Overview

Complete a simulated ½ inch (1.27 cm) colour retouch (using visible cream) on only the right side OR the left side of the head including the following guidelines:

- correct sectioning and sub-sectioning
- correct application
- controlled finished results
- complete front and back quadrant (only right side or left side)

Any cream-based shampoo or conditioner (contrasting to the mannequin’s hair colour but not staining the mannequin hair) can be used as an appropriate product to simulate hair colour. Do not use clear gel.

How will this task be assessed?

This task will be assessed on dry hair.

- Hair sectioning:
  - hair is divided into four (4) quadrants:
    o from centre front hairline to centre nape hairline
    o from ear to ear

- Product application:
  - two sections (T-section and hairline) are outlined with product
  - product is applied to one front and one back quadrant both on the same side of the head
  - product is applied on the part line and moves outwards
  - product is applied to ½ inch (1.27 cm) regrowth only

- Finished application:
  - subsections ¼ inch (0.63 cm)
  - no globs or bare patches (no absence of colour or too much colour)
  - scalp aeration completed through the entire application

Call the Assessors at the end of Task 2
### Task 3: Permanent Wave Demonstration

#### Task Overview

Complete a conventional 9-section perm wrap on the entire head. This wrap will demonstrate:

- clean pre-sectioning or clean sectioning as you wrap
- effective rod use
- effective paper use
- no picks
- no stabilizers
- size/colour of rod is candidate’s choice
- size/colour of rod may vary (various lengths of hair may require different sizes of perm rods)

***Please keep in mind:***

- curvature of the head
- direction of the wrap
- no perm solution is required

#### How will this task be assessed?

- **Sectioning:**
  - clean sections
  - clean sub-sections
  - uniform panels (even on both sides)
  - use 9-section wrap (no bricklay wraps)

- **Rod selection:**
  - rod length relates to length of subsection (equal or slightly less)
  - the circumference of the rod ensures that the length of the hair wraps a minimum of 2 and 1/2 revolutions
  - width of the sub-section relates to diameter of rod (equal to the diameter of the rod)

- **Winding components:**
  - rods positioned half-off base
  - even hair distribution
  - even tension for an alkaline wave
  - bands should hold the rod in its place without biting into the hair
  - bands should not be twisted
  - ends evenly distributed (not bunched, crossed, slanted or fish hooked)
  - all the ends must be enclosed in the paper
  - paper should extend beyond the ends of the hair

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**Call the Assessors at the end of Task 3**
### Task 4: Finished Blow Dry Style

#### Task Overview

Produce a consumer blow-dry style as would leave your place of work. This style will demonstrate:

- movement and volume
- proper equipment handling (blower with brush)
- professionally finished work (use vent and/or round and/or 7/9 row brushes, combs and styling aids to complete the style)

*** No scrunching for this section

- Flat irons or curling irons **cannot** be used

#### How will this task be assessed?

- The finished result demonstrates:
  - movement in the hair design with “C-shape” formations throughout the head form
  - hair volume relevant to the finished design (front, side, back and top view for balance)
  - hair is dry to touch
  - hair shaft is smooth (free of frizz and fly-aways)
  - hair ends are free of fish hooks

Call the Assessors at the end of Task 4
## Task Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How will this task be assessed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ The finished result demonstrates:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- width of the sub-section is appropriate to the diameter of the rod (equal to the diameter of the rod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the size of the base reflects the curl formed (length and width)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the curls are sitting on the appropriate base placement for:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Panel 1 – (3) On-base curls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Panel 2 – (3) ½-off base curls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Panel 3 – (3) Off-base curls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- stem is uniform (not slanted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- stem is smooth (with no iron marks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ends are complete (not crossed, slanted or bent)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Produce three (3) separate panels of curls, with three (3) of the same curls in each panel. The curls must be placed one below the other. The panels will contain:

- Panel 1 – (3) On-base curls
- Panel 2 – (3) ½-off base curls
- Panel 3 – (3) Off-base curls
- No ringlets in any panel (the curls must hold their curled form)

The candidate may clip the curl **only to cool the curl**. All clips must be removed **before assessment**. Only a Marcel iron can be used.

During the assessment, candidates will be asked to identify the type of curls in each panel.

### Call the Assessors at the end of Task 5

This completes Part 1 (Morning Session)

### Lunch break
Hairstylist Practical Assessment Part 2
2.  **Hairstylist Practical Assessment Part 2 (Afternoon) Instructions**

Please note that you have a total of **three hours thirty minutes** (3 hours 30 minutes) to complete the afternoon session. Timing is based on industry input and assessment time has been included within this schedule.

You will be assessed on the following components in Part 2 of the practical assessment and the tasks must be performed **in the following order**:

1. **Task 6: Cut, Colour and Style**
   - Foils + Colour (the foils must be assessed before the full hair colouring is performed).
   - Cut
   - Style

   Note that the subtasks within Task 6 - **Foils + Colour** and **Cut + Style** - can be done in any order.

   So, you can perform a **Cut** first and then do **Foils + Colour** and finally **Style**.

   Or

   You can perform the **Foils + Colour** first and then **Cut** and finally **Style**.

2. **Task 7: Electric Clipper Cut**

Please note that this will be the last task for which you will be assessed.
2.1 Task 6: Cut, Colour and Style

Perform a makeover of the morning hair in order to transform the hair into a completely new cut, colour and style.

There are three components of this task:
- Foils + Colour
- Cut
- Style

6a) FOILS + COLOUR

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**Task Overview**

In this task, the assessors are looking for a minimum of 12 foils and a new overall hair colour. It is expected that the candidates will foil first then colour in between the foils.

When performing the Foils + Colour component, the foils must be assessed before the full hair colouring is performed. Call the Assessors at the end of completing foiling, before the application of full colour.

- There must be a **minimum** of 12 foils.
- 12 foils must use a lightener (bleach).
- 12 foils must be in the interior of the head form above the parietal ridge.
- 12 foils must be weaves.

***All hair must be coloured with a colouring product.***

***Gloves must be worn during the colour application.***

***Processing time of the colour should not exceed 45 minutes, and should not require the use of a hood dryer.***

***Any professional colouring products may be used.***

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**How will this task be assessed?**

Foiling technique must be separately assessed before the full hair colouring.

**Foiling and Colouring technique**

- Foiling technique demonstrates:
  - minimum of twelve (12) foils
  - 12 foils must use a lightener (bleach)
  - 12 foils must be in the interior of the head form above the parietal ridge
  - sub-sections are ⅛ inch (0.31 cm) thick
  - product is controlled (no excess product out of the sides of the foil)
  - glove(s) must be used during the colour application

Call the Assessors at the end of completing foiling, before the application of full colour.

**Hair colour**

- Foiling results demonstrate:
  - application is ⅛ inch (0.31 cm) away from the scalp
  - evidence of weaves in 12 foils
  - no evidence of bleeding

- Colouring results demonstrate:
  - absence of skin staining beyond the hairline
  - the new overall colour is a minimum of two levels different from the original hair colour of the mannequin
  - the new overall colour is a minimum of two levels different from the foils
  - the tonal value and level of the hair is consistent when matched ‘ends’ to scalp (no ombres and no drop roots / no advanced techniques)
### Task Overview

The haircut must be altered from the original cut to reflect a completely new style, design and image.

- When performing the cut, any cutting tools may be used to cut the hair (except clippers with or without guards).
- The haircut must be altered to reflect a completely new style, design and image.
- Thermal tools such as rollers, benders, curling iron, flat iron, etc. can be used.
- Hair accessories and pins cannot be used.

*** Altering the fringe only is unacceptable.
*** Texturizing with shears or razor only is also unacceptable.
*** Clippers with or without guards cannot be used.
*** Hair on the floor is not to be swept up until after the task is assessed.
*** The finished hair will be assessed from 5 (five) viewpoints: front, right side, left side, back, top.

### How will this task be assessed?

The cut will NOT be assessed separately. The finished hair style will be assessed.

#### Cut and style

- The finished cut and style displays:
  - complete change of hair form from the morning
  - balance * (symmetrical or asymmetrical)
  - proportion *
  - harmony *
  - The hairstyle texture uses rhythm in design (consistent, increase, decrease or logical disconnection).
  - hair shaft is smooth (free of frizz and fly-aways)
  - hair ends texture is consistent with chosen texture (curled ends are not fish-hooked, straight or bent out of alignment with the curl; straightened ends are straight not fish-hooked or misaligned.)
  - absence of hair accessories and pins.

* Refer to the *Definition of Terms* in Section 3.

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Call the Assessors at the end of Task 6
2.2 Task 7: Electric Clipper Cut

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Overview</th>
<th>How will this task be assessed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Execute a zero elevation taper in nape (fade) using clippers. The clipper cut will have the following characteristics:  
  - minimum ¼ inch (0.63 cm) removed from a full head of hair  
  - a balance between the longest and shortest lengths  
  - balanced taper - smooth transition without steps (no disconnection in the taper)  
  - transition to the top may be connected or disconnected  
  - clean and finished blending, grooming and outlining around sides and ears  
  ***The fade must be executed using clippers (clipper over comb).  
  ***No guards or interchangeable blades can be used.  
  ***A combination of clippers and shears must be used.  
  ***A faded nape is left in a natural state. However, any stray and/or excess hair is removed from the neck.  
  ***Trimmers and texturizing shears can be used for detailing and outlining.  
  ***Hair is not to be swept up until after the task is assessed. | The clipper cut will be assessed wet.  
  □ Hairline:  
  - the fade is executed using clipper (clipper over comb)  
  - zero elevation taper in nape (fade)  
  - minimum ¼ inch (0.63 cm) removed from a full head of hair  
  - grooming even around the right and left ear  
  - sides balanced and even  
  □ Blending:  
  - clipper work blended  
  - balanced taper  
  - taper relates to hairstyle  
  - internal balance within the haircut (distributed consistently) |

Call the Assessors at the end of Task 7

This completes the Practical Assessment
1. After the assessment of this task, and as directed by the Invigilator/Assessors, the station must be cleaned.
2. Loose hair must be removed from the mannequin head form.
3. The clipper cut snap cap must be removed and any water inside the head form must be drained.
4. The head form must be dried and the original (bald) cap must be assembled on the head form.
Section 3
Additional Information
Commonly Asked Questions

Is the *How will this task be assessed?* column important?
- Yes. The *Task Overview* column outlines the task to be performed and the corresponding *How will this task be assessed?* column lists the observable and measurable parameters that will be used by assessors to assess the skills. For example, in Task 2: Colour Retouch Demonstration, the *Task Overview* column refers to *Hair sectioning* as one of the guideline. The *How will this task be assessed?* column specifies that the criteria that define sectioning includes *dividing hair into four quadrants from centre front hairline to centre nape hairline and from ear to ear.* You may bring the Information Package (this document) to the assessment to refer to *How will this task be assessed?* column during the assessment.

Who are my judges?
- We are happy to tell you that there are no judges, only assessors. The assessors are highly trained Journeyperson Hairstylists who are instructors, employers and/or employees from throughout B.C. A panel of assessors will be administering your practical to ensure a fair assessment is made of your skills based on the criteria.

Am I allowed to ask questions directed at the Assessors?
- No, assessors are not permitted to respond to any inquiries by candidates. However, candidates may ask questions to the Invigilator at the venue. The Invigilator may respond or ask one of the assessors to respond, as appropriate.

Do I really have to do a practical?
- Yes. In order for B.C. hairstylists to qualify for a Red Seal – Interprovincial Journeyperson endorsement, both a written and a practical assessment must be passed.

Can the assessor’s decision be based on my personal style versus theirs?
- No. Assessors are bound by strict rules which indicate a specific standard you need to meet. The assessors are confident that you will present yourself in a modern professional way, just as your employer and clients would expect.

What if I don’t finish a task?
- Any task that is unfinished is assigned a mark of zero (0).

If I don’t finish a task, does that mean I automatically fail the entire exam?
- Not necessarily. Each task of the exam is marked independently and then totalled out of 100%.
Definitions of Terms

- **Parietal ridge** – This is the widest area of the head, starting at the temples and ending at the bottom of the crown.

- **Balance** - Balance is establishing equal or appropriate proportions. In hairstyling, it can be the proportion of height to width. Balance can be symmetrical or asymmetrical. (Milady)

- **Proportion** - Proportion is the comparative relationship of one thing to another. (Milady)

- **Harmony** - Harmony is the creation of unity in a design and is the most important of the art principles. Harmony holds all the elements of the design together. When a hairstyle is harmonious it has the following elements:
  - A form with interesting lines
  - A pleasing color or combination of colors and textures
  - A balance and rhythm that together strengthen the design (Milady)

- **Zero elevation fade** - Regardless of the style chosen, the nape area should not be blocked. A natural hairline should be visible. Some candidates may refer to this area as a fade.
Reference Materials

  
  Please refer to the online version for the most recent update to health and safety regulations.