



The State Board Written Exams are multiple-choice question tests required for you to pass to get your state license. These are objective assessments where you select the correct answers from a provided list of choices. There are proven techniques that you can apply during your State Board Written Exam that can greatly improve your chances of passing. Learning these simple techniques will greatly increase your test taking abilities not only at State Board, but on any multiple-choice test you take in the future.

The following are test taking tips that can be very beneficial when taking your State Board Written Exam:

1. Start Preparing For Your State Board Written Exam Way In Advance

The one major mistake most students make is that they start to prepare for their written exam two or three days before the test instead of way in advance. The result being **“one-third to one-half fail”** the written test.

Studies show that starting to study weeks to months before any written exam is far superior to a mass cram session. For example, you will get more out of five 2-hour preparation sessions spread out over one week rather than one 10-hour night before the test cram session. Late night cramming before any written exam is usually a recipe for disaster, resulting in poor retention, mental and physical fatigue, and careless mistakes on the test. ***The sooner you start studying for your State Board Written Exam, the better!***

2. Make A Solid Study Plan

Proper preparation for your State Board Written Exam means you need a solid plan. Using your textbook, notes from school, and other study materials and methods, strategize on how you are going to prepare for your written exam. Have a small achievable goal for every study session that you can build on as your test date approaches. These small achievable goals are often referred to as “milestones”. For example, set a milestone for your next study session using one of our EasyPass solutions. Concentrate on one topic completing a certain number of questions during your first study session (e.g., 25 questions). Increase the number of study questions you tackle the next time around (e.g., 35 questions). Eventually you want to build up to studying at minimum the number of weighted questions on your written test (e.g., 85 for barber) during each study session.

Build not only on your material knowledge, but also on test taking stamina. Depending on the license you are going for, you need to be able to sit in front of a computer for 90 minutes to 2 hours. Improving test-taking focus requires training your brain through active study methods, developing stress management, and implementing strategies like not spending too much time on hard questions. Practice boosting concentration by simulating exam conditions during your test preparation, using positive self-talk, and practicing deep breathing to stay calm and focused.

Take timed simulated tests to set your study benchmark. Are you able to complete the simulated test in the allotted time? If not, as a goal you want to build up to completing the test in the allotted amount of time. As you review your answers, ask yourself from which topic was the question pulled from. Concentrate studying on the topics you struggle most with.

3. Do Not Let Panic Overtake You During Your Exam

A certain amount of anxiety is normal prior to taking any exam. The idea is not to let this anxiety overwhelm you during your written exam. To reduce panic and stress, put in as much studying and preparation time as you can afford prior to taking the exam. The more prepared you are for your State Board Written Exam, the less likely you are to panic during the test.

Try to get a good night's rest the night before the day of your exam and eat a well-balanced breakfast on the day of your exam. Getting a good night's sleep and eating a well-balanced breakfast before an exam optimizes brain function, memory recall, and focus while reducing stress. Good sleep consolidates information, aiding in memory retention, while a healthy breakfast provides necessary energy, enhancing alertness and preventing brain fog.

If possible, visit the exam site location prior to taking your test to ensure you know where it is located and to familiarize yourself with the parking situation. On the day of the test, plan to arrive at the exam site early to avoid being late or rushing to get there. Remember, things such as bad traffic do happen.

Remember, you only need to get 75% of the weighted questions correct to pass your State Board Written Exam. So, missing some questions is not the end of the world. You can miss up to 25% of the questions and still pass. Do not let doubting your answers to a few questions derail you from the rest of the exam.

The table below summarizes the number of questions you need to answer correctly to pass your State Board Written Exam.

Test	# Of Weighted Questions	Test Time	Correct Required To Pass	Number Of Questions You Can Miss
Barber	85	2 Hours (120 minutes)	64	21
Cosmetology	100	2 Hours (120 minutes)	75	25
Esthetician	75	1.5 Hours (90 minutes)	57	18
Hairstyling	50	1.5 Hours (90 minutes)	38	12
Manicure	60	1.5 Hours (90 minutes)	45	15

4. Do Not Skip Any Question

Always answer every question to maximize your score. Skipped questions are counted as incorrect answers and will hurt your score on the State Board Written Exam. There is no penalty for guessing if you do not know the answer to a question. There is no "negative" marking for a wrong answer, meaning a wrong guess is treated the same as a blank answer. An educated guess or even a random guess provides a chance to earn points, whereas leaving a question blank guarantees zero points in your favor. Always focus on that only 75% correct answers are needed to pass the exam.

5. Be Sure To Read Each Question In Its Entirety Before Glancing Over The Answer Choices

There are no trick questions on the State Board Written Exam. Reading the question in its entirety prevents misunderstandings and ensures you address all parts of the question. This allows you to properly evaluate every available choice.

6. After Reading A Question, Answer It In Your Head If You Can Before Reviewing The Answer Choices

This technique helps you avoid being swayed by misleading or confusing choices and then forces you to retrieve the information from your memory. This acts as a filter, allowing you to more easily identify the correct answer among the choices or eliminate incorrect ones.

7. If Not Sure Of The Correct Answer, Use A Process Of Elimination To Get Rid Of As Many Wrong Choices As You Can Before Answering The Question

Eliminate answer choices which you are 100 percent sure are incorrect before selecting the answer you believe is right. This increases your chances of guessing correctly by reducing the number of choices. Eliminating one wrong answer on a four-choice multiple-choice question improves your odds from a 1 in 4 chance to a 1 in 3 chance of answering it correctly. Eliminating two wrong answers improves your odds to a 1 in 2 chance. Wrong answer choices are often easier to spot than correct answers.

8. Make An Educated Guess If Not Sure Of The Answer

Making an educated guess on a multiple-choice question is a vital test-taking strategy that greatly increases your probability of selecting the correct answer compared to random guessing. It leverages prior knowledge, logical reasoning, and, crucially, the process of elimination to maximize scores when you are unsure of the correct answer. Educated guesses utilize knowledge of test and subject-specific familiarity.

The following are educated guess tips:

- a) Ask yourself whether the answer you are considering completely addresses the question. If the test answer is only partly true or is true only under certain narrow conditions, then it is probably not the right answer.
- b) If you think a question is a trick question, rethink it. None of the questions you encounter at State Board are intended to be deceptive. If you suspect a trick question, make sure you are not reading too much into the question. In most cases, what looks like a "trick question" is only tricky because it is not taken at face value.
- c) If after your very best effort, you cannot choose between two choices, try vividly imagining each one as the correct answer. You will often "feel" that one of the answers is wrong. Trust your gut feeling.
- d) When you are positive two of the answers are correct with an "All of the above" choice, then the "All of the above" choice is probably the correct answer.
- e) When you encounter an "All of the above" answer choice, do not select it if you are pretty sure one of the answers is incorrect.
- f) When you encounter a "None of the above" answer choice, do not select it if you are pretty sure one answer is correct.
- g) If you get stuck on a question do not waste too much time on it. Answer it as best as you can, flag it for review, and move on. Come back to it at the end of the test if you have time.

9. If Time Permits, Go Back Through Your Test To Make Sure You Have Answered Everything Correctly

Going back through your test to double-check your work helps catch careless errors, correct misread questions, and leverage leftover test time to improve your final score. For the most part keep your answers the same, unless you have discovered new information in a later part of the test to disprove your answer.

10. Mark Questions You Are Unsure Of For Review

On the State Board Written Exam, you can "flag" ("mark") questions you are unsure about so you can come back to them later if time permits. Marking unsure questions for review allows you to manage test time efficiently by moving past roadblocks and ensures you return to analyze difficult problems with a fresh perspective, increasing the likelihood of changing an initially incorrect answer to the correct one.

11. Learn To Naturally Implement The Strategies Presented In This Document

You want to make the above test-taking strategies second nature. In other words, you do not want to have to think about them, but rather naturally and quickly apply them. This means you should practice using these strategies as much as you can when answering practice questions. Make them a part of your test preparation. Practicing these strategies will ensure you maximize your score without wasting time or second-guessing yourself on test day.

EasyPass Solutions



Preparing for your State Board Written Exam is essential since one-third to one-half of all students fail the written test. If you're not sure where to begin or how to prepare for the State Board Written Exam, EasyPass may be the right solution for you. Since 2012, we have provided solutions for the State Board Written Exam.

Each EasyPass product (**Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetician, Hairstylist, and Manicure**) goes over what you'll need to do to better prepare for your written exam. You will also learn how to become oriented to the overall structure of the written exam with complete simulated practice tests. You can practice specific question types, topics, or entire sections that you need to improve on. EasyPass for the State Board Written Exam can help you figure out what areas you're most weak in and set a baseline to improve and keep practicing.

The sooner you start to prepare for your State Board Exam with EasyPass, the more time you have to improve your score!

easypassprep.com



Written Exam Preparation Check-List

I Have Fully Gone Through This Test-Taking Tips Document

Yes No

License Type I Am Going For:

Barber Cosmetology Esthetician Hairstyling Manicure

School Graduation Date: _____

Scheduled Test Date: _____ Scheduled Test Time: _____

Test Location: _____

I Will Aggressively Start Preparing For My Written Test:

Immediately On: _____

I Plan To Study _____ Days A Week For _____ Hours Each Session

Other: _____

My Study Materials Will Include:

My Text Book Notes From School EasyPass Solution Online Videos

Practice Tests Study Guides Flashcards

Other: _____

Areas Of Study To Concentrate On:

Safety and Infection Control Client Consultation and Analysis Services

Other: _____

Notes: _____

Sample Quiz

(circle the letter of the correct answer – 8 correct are required to pass)

1. Generally considered the second-highest level of decontamination used on hard, non-porous materials is called:
a) Disinfection
b) Sterilization
c) Sanitation
d) Cleaning
2. Chemical agents used to destroy most bacteria and some viruses on tools and surfaces, commonly known as disinfectants, include:
a) Quaternary ammonium compounds ("quats")
b) Alcohols (70-90% isopropyl or ethanol)
c) Sodium hypochlorite (household bleach)
d) All of the above
3. Contact with non-intact skin, blood, body fluid, or other potentially infectious materials that may occur during the performance of an individual's duties is referred to as a/an:
a) Exposure incident
b) Universal Precaution
c) Engineering Control
d) Decontamination incident
4. Salon electrical safety requires:
a) Regular equipment inspection
b) Avoiding circuit overloads
c) Managing water hazards to prevent fire and shock
d) All of the above
5. Electricity and water do not mix because water is an excellent _____ of electricity.
a) Resistor
b) Rectifier
c) Conductor
d) None of the above
6. Essential salon safety includes:
a) Sanitizing tools with EPA-registered disinfectants after every use
b) Mandatory handwashing
c) Using personal protective equipment (PPE)
d) All of the above
7. A minor component substance (e.g., salt) that dissolves into a medium that does the dissolving (e.g., water) is called a:
a) Solvent
b) Solution
c) Solute
d) Thinner
8. The application of measures used to promote public health and prevent the spread of infectious diseases is referred to as:
a) Epidemic influenza
b) Infection control
c) Ignoring prevention
d) None of the above
9. Hospital-grade tuberculocidal disinfectants are effective against:
a) Bacteria, fungi, and viruses
b) Hepatitis B
c) Tuberculosis
d) All of the above
10. The highest level of decontamination for destroying all microbial life, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and highly resilient bacterial spores is called:
a) Disinfection
b) Sterilization
c) Sanitation
d) Cleaning

Answer Key
1. A 2. D 3. A 4. D 5. C 6. D 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B