

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Health

Health Professional  
Licensing Administration



District of Columbia Department of Health  
Health Professional Licensing Administration  
Board of Dentistry

**DENTAL HYGIENIST WRITTEN TAKE-HOME LAW EXAMINATION**

ALL APPLICANTS for a license to practice dental hygiene in the District of Columbia must pass an examination on the rules and regulations governing the practice of dental hygiene in the District of Columbia. In order to expedite the processing of your application, the Board of Dentistry has authorized a take home examination.

Both the Dentist and Dental Hygienist “Take Home” Law Exams are included in this application packet. Make sure you take the **correct exam** and complete the **correct answer sheet** for your license type.

THE ANSWER SHEET FOR THIS EXAMINATION MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR LICENSE APPLICATION.

## DENTAL HYGIENIST WRITTEN TAKE-HOME LAW EXAMINATION

1. Dental hygienist licenses are granted for a term of two years and expire on:
  - A. December 31 of each even-numbered year.
  - B. December 31 of each odd-numbered year.
  - C. June 31 of each even-numbered year.
  - D. June 31 of each odd-numbered year.
  
2. After a license has expired, how many days does an applicant have before the license is considered to have lapsed?
  - A. 30
  - B. 45
  - C. 60
  - D. 90
  
3. Upon application and payment of a fee, a licensee may be placed on inactive status and not pay renewal fees. In order to resume practice, how many hours of continuing education credit are required?
  - A. 8 for each year the license was inactive to a maximum of 40 hours
  - B. 12 for each year the license was inactive to a maximum of 50 hours
  - C. 15 for each two years the license was inactive to a maximum of 60 hours
  - D. 20 for each two years the license was inactive to a maximum of 70 hours
  
4. To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program or a course sponsored by an unrecognized professional organization must be submitted to the Board for review \_\_\_\_ days prior to the presentation.
  - A. 15
  - B. 30
  - C. 60
  - D. 90
  
5. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true?
  - I. The applicant must verify that a continuing education program is approved by the Board prior to attending the program.
  - II. Continuing education credits may be received for participation in research as a principal investigator.
  - III. Each semester hour shall constitute 12 hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour shall constitute 8 hours of continuing education credit.
  - A. I only
  - B. I and II
  - C. II and III
  - D. I, II, and III
  
6. The license of a dental hygienist:
  - A. may be placed in his/her personnel file.
  - B. must be conspicuously displayed at his/her place of business.
  - C. may be displayed in his/her home.
  - D. need not be displayed.

7. When must a dental hygienist notify the Board of a change of address of his/her place of business?
- A. within 10 days before the change
  - B. within 20 days before the change
  - C. within 10 days after the change
  - D. within 30 days after the change
8. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true?
- I. A dental hygienist may administer local anesthesia under direct supervision.
  - II. General supervision allows the dentist to instruct the hygienist by phone to chart cavities during a preliminary examination.
  - III. A dental hygienist may remove temporary restorations under general supervision.
- A. I only
  - B. II only
  - C. II and III
  - D. I, II, and III
9. A dentist must remain in the dental office or treatment facility while a dental hygienist is:
- A. charting cavities.
  - B. taking an X-ray.
  - C. performing prophylaxis.
  - D. placing temporary restorations.
10. A dentist must remain in the dental office or treatment facility while a dental hygienist is:
- A. placing sutures.
  - B. removing periodontal dressings.
  - C. polishing a tooth or restoration.
  - D. placing composite resin/silicate restorations.
11. The physical presence of a dentist is NOT required when a dental hygienist is:
- A. removing periodontal dressings.
  - B. placing rubber dams.
  - C. instructing a group of individuals in oral health.
  - D. applying cavity liners.
12. Which of the following functions may a dental hygienist perform under general supervision of a licensed dentist?
- A. removing sutures
  - B. taking study cast impressions
  - C. removing periodontal dressings
  - D. taking a dental X-ray
13. Under what conditions may a dental hygienist administer local anesthesia?
- A. in an emergency if the dentist is not present
  - B. under direct supervision by a dentist
  - C. under general supervision by a dentist
  - D. a dental hygienist is NOT authorized to administer local anesthesia

14. The dental hygienist is NOT allowed to perform which one of the following?
- A. monitoring the administration of nitrous oxide
  - B. taking a dental X-ray
  - C. placing sutures
  - D. removing sutures
15. A dental hygienist shall NOT perform which of the following?
- I. Carving amalgam restorations
  - II. Finishing amalgam restorations
  - III. Placement and finishing of composite resin/silicate restorations
- A. II only
  - B. I and II
  - C. I and III
  - D. I, II, and III
16. All of the following are considered unprofessional conduct except:
- A. making public claim of superiority in training or skill as a dentist
  - B. advertising specialty services and including the words "Public Health Dentist"
  - C. sharing professional fees with an unlicensed person
  - D. violating the District of Columbia Controlled Substance Regulations.
17. A dental hygienist has applied for licensure having completed the necessary requirements. He/She may:
- A. practice with a temporary license.
  - B. practice for 30 days while waiting for a license.
  - C. practice under the direct supervision of a dentist.
  - D. NOT practice until he/she obtains the license.
18. A dentist receives a telephone call from a patient requesting that her records and X-rays be sent to another practitioner in the same city. The dentist refuses to send them. Is this ethical? Why or why not?
- A. Ethical because the practitioner did not call; instead the patient called.
  - B. Ethical because the dentist had not finished his/her treatment plan for this patient.
  - C. Ethical because the request was NOT made in writing.
  - D. Unethical because a call from the patient is a proper request.
19. Patient presents with mild gingivitis. The dentist tells the patient he/she needs multiple treatments of scaling, root planning and curettage. Is this an ethical or unethical practice? Why?
- A. Ethical because insurance does NOT reimburse adequately for single prophylaxis.
  - B. Ethical because of the time involved.
  - C. Unethical because periodontal surgery is required.
  - D. Unethical because a prophylaxis is the appropriate treatment.
20. Any person who practices as a dental hygienist without a license is subject to a fine not to exceed:
- A. \$1,000
  - B. \$3,000
  - C. \$5,000
  - D. \$10,000

\*\*\*STOP\*\*\*

THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST.  
HAVE YOU RECORDED YOUR ANSWERS ON THE CORRECT ANSWER SHEET?

**District of Columbia Department of Health  
Health Care Licensing & Customer Service Division  
Board of Dentistry**

**DENTAL HYGIENIST WRITTEN TAKE-HOME LAW EXAMINATION  
ANSWER SHEET**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify by my signature below that I am the person indicated above. I further certify that I understand the secure and confidential nature of this examination and will not reveal the contents of this examination to anyone. I hereby affirm that I will abide by the rules of this examination.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your answers as shown below. Do not circle, "x," or mark your answers any other way than shown:

1. ~~A~~ B C D  
2. A B ~~C~~ D

- |     |   |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| 1.  | A | B | C | D | 21. | A | B | C | D |
| 2.  | A | B | C | D | 22. | A | B | C | D |
| 3.  | A | B | C | D | 23. | A | B | C | D |
| 4.  | A | B | C | D | 24. | A | B | C | D |
| 5.  | A | B | C | D | 25. | A | B | C | D |
| 6.  | A | B | C | D | 26. | A | B | C | D |
| 7.  | A | B | C | D | 27. | A | B | C | D |
| 8.  | A | B | C | D | 28. | A | B | C | D |
| 9.  | A | B | C | D | 29. | A | B | C | D |
| 10. | A | B | C | D | 30. | A | B | C | D |
| 11. | A | B | C | D | 31. | A | B | C | D |
| 12. | A | B | C | D | 32. | A | B | C | D |
| 13. | A | B | C | D | 33. | A | B | C | D |
| 14. | A | B | C | D | 34. | A | B | C | D |
| 15. | A | B | C | D | 35. | A | B | C | D |
| 16. | A | B | C | D | 36. | A | B | C | D |
| 17. | A | B | C | D | 37. | A | B | C | D |
| 18. | A | B | C | D | 38. | A | B | C | D |
| 19. | A | B | C | D | 39. | A | B | C | D |
| 20. | A | B | C | D | 40. | A | B | C | D |