Chapter 16 Haircutting

Name:

Instructions: Answer each question, using information from your readings and lessons as a guide.

1. In your own words, explain why cosmetologists should study and thoroughly understand haircutting.

*(Answers will vary but may include that haircutting is a basic, foundational skill on which all other hair design is built. Being able to rely on haircutting skill and technique builds confidence, trust, and loyalty between cosmetologists and their clients. The ability to duplicate a haircut or create a new one builds a stronger professional relationship between stylist and client. A good haircut makes clients happy with cosmetology services and builds repeat services.)*

1. List common reference points on the head.
   1. *(Ears)*
   2. *(Jaw line)*
   3. *(Occipital bone)*
   4. *(Apex)*
2. An understanding of head shape and reference points will help the cosmetologist:
   1. *(Find balance in the design)*
   2. *(Develop haircutting consistency)*
   3. *(Show where and when it is necessary to change technique to make up for irregularities in the head form)*
3. How can you find the parietal ridge? *(Place a comb flat on the sides of the head. The parietal ridge is where the head starts to curve away from the comb.)*
4. Describe how to find the occipital bone. *(Simply feel the back of the skull, or place a comb flat against the nape and find the spot where the comb leaves the head.)*
5. Explain how to find the apex. *(Place a comb flat on the top of the head. The comb will rest on the apex, or highest point.)*
6. Outline two ways to find the four corners. *(One way is to place two combs flat against the side and back of the head. The back corner is where the two combs meet. A second way is to make two diagonal lines cross the apex of the head. These lines point directly to the front and back corners.)*
7. Name the areas of the head.
   1. *(Top)*
   2. *(Front)*
   3. *(Sides)*
   4. *(Crown)*
   5. *(Nape)*
   6. *(Back)*
   7. *(Bang or fringe area)*
8. Why is the top of the head important to identify? *(By locating the parietal ridge, you can find the hair that grows on the top of the head. This hair lies on the head shape. Hair that grows below the parietal ridge, or crest, hangs because of gravity.)*
9. Give the procedure for determining the front of the head. *(By making a parting, or drawing a line from the apex to the back of the ear, you can separate the hair that naturally falls in front of the ear from the hair behind the ear. Everything that falls in front of the ear is considered the front of the head.)*
10. Where are the sides of the head? *(The sides of the head are easy to locate. They include all hair from the back of the ear forward, below the parietal ridge.)*
11. What is the crown, and why is it important to identify? *(The crown is the area between the apex and the back of the parietal ridge. On many people, the crown is flat and the site of cowlicks or whorls. Because of this, it is extremely important to pay special attention to this area when haircutting.)*
12. What is the nape, and how can it be identified? *(The nape is the area at the back part of the neck. It consists of the hair below the occipital bone. The nape can be located by taking a horizontal parting or by making a horizontal line across the back of the head at the occipital bone.)*
13. What does the back of the head consist of? Explain how to locate it. *The back of the head consists of all the hair that falls naturally behind the ear. To locate it, make a parting or draw a line from the apex to the back of the ear.)*
14. Define the bang or fringe area. *(The bang or fringe area is a triangular section that begins at the apex and ends at the front corners of the head.)*
15. What are the two most commonly used elevations in haircutting?
    1. *(45 degree)*
    2. *(90 degree)*
16. Give other names for the term *cutting line.*
17. *(Cutting position)*
18. *(Cutting angle)*
19. *(Finger angle)*
20. *(Finger position)*
21. Cutting lines can be described as:
22. *(Horizontal)*
23. *(Vertical)*
24. *(Diagonal)*
25. *(By using degrees)*
26. Define the term *guideline.* *(A guideline is a section of hair that determines the length the hair will be cut. Guidelines are at the cut’s perimeter or interior.)*
27. What are the two types of guidelines in haircutting?
28. *(Stationary)*
29. *(Traveling)*
30. What is overdirection, and why is it used? *(Overdirection is best understood by comparing it to elevation. Whereas elevation is simply the degree to which you lift a section away from the head, overdirection occurs when you comb the hair away from its natural falling position rather than straight out from the head. Overdirection is used mostly in graduated and layered haircuts and when the cosmetologist wants to create a length increase in the design.)*
31. Explain how to analyze face shape. *(To analyze the shape of a client’s face, pull all the hair away with a clip or wrap the hair in a towel. Look for the widest areas, the narrowest areas, and the balance of the features. A quick way to analyze face shape is to determine if the face is wide or long.)*
32. What does analyzing face shape accomplish? *(By analyzing face shape, cosmetologists can begin to decide what is the best haircut for a client.*
33. Why are density and texture important? *(Density and texture are important because different hair types respond in different ways to the same type of cutting. Some hair types need more layers, and some need more weight.)*
34. Which three countries are primarily responsible for manufacturing the steel used to make professional shears?
    1. *(Japan)*
    2. *(Germany)*
    3. *(United States)*
35. Compare forged shears with cast shears. *(The forging process creates a more durable shear than the casting process. Forged shears are easier to repair if dropped or bent. Because of new technology in the manufacturing process, a forged shear is similar in price to a cast shear but much higher in quality and durability. Forged shears last significantly longer than cast ones.)*
36. List all the tasks that should be on the maintenance schedule for shears.
    1. *(Daily cleaning and lubrication)*
    2. *(Daily tension adjustment and balancing)*
    3. *(Weekly cleaning and lubrication)*
    4. *(Shear disinfecting)*
    5. *(Shear sharpening)*
37. Name the things a cosmetologist should consider when purchasing shears.
    1. *(Know how the shear was manufactured)*
    2. *(Ask about the steel quality)*
    3. *(Decide on the right blade edge)*
    4. *(Decide on the best handle design)*
    5. *(Be sure the shears fit properly)*
    6. *(Hold the shears in the hands)*
    7. *(Ask about the service agreement)*
    8. *(Ask about the warranty)*
    9. (*Analyze the cost of the shears)*
    10. *(Determine how many pairs of shears are needed)*
38. Ergonomically correct and custom-fitted shears can help the cosmetologist dramatically by:
    1. *(Allowing a relaxed grip and reduced thumb pressure)*
    2. *(Reducing the pressure on the hand’s nerves and tendons)*
    3. *(Allowing shears to do the cutting work)*
39. List the four components to consider when correctly fitting a shear.
    1. *(Fitting the ring finger)*
    2. *(Fitting the thumb)*
    3. *(Relaxing the grip)*
    4. *(Ensuring correct finger position and alignment)*
40. Why is it important to hold tools properly?
41. *(It gives the most control and the best results)*
42. *(It can help avoid muscle strain in the hands, arms, neck, and back)*
43. Describe the proper way to hold shears.
44. *(Open your right hand (left hand if left-handed) and place the ring finger in the finger grip of the still blade and the little finger in the finger tang (brace).)*
45. *(Place the thumb in the finger grip (thumb grip) of the moving blade.)*
46. *(Practice opening and closing the shears, concentrating on moving only the thumb.)*
47. Why is it important to always hold the comb while cutting? *(Putting the comb down wastes a lot of time.)*
48. Differentiate between the roles of the dominant hand and the holding hand during haircutting. *(In general, the dominant hand (cutting hand) does most of the work. It holds the shears and parts, combs, and cuts the hair. The holding hand does just that: It holds sections of hair and the comb. The holding hand helps the cosmetologist maintain control.)*
49. Explain what it means to “palm the shears.” *(Palming the shears entails removing the thumb from the thumb grip while leaving the ring and little fingers in the grip and finger rest. Curling the fingers inward “palms” the shears, which keeps the shears closed during combing or parting.)*
50. Define the phrase “transferring the comb.” *(After you have combed a subsection into position, you must free your cutting hand. Once the fingers are in the correct cutting position, you “transfer the comb” by placing it between the thumb and index finger of your holding hand.)*
51. Describe the two methods of holding a razor.

Method A

1. *(Open razor so the handle is higher than the shank. Place the thumb on the thumb grip and the index, middle, and ring fingers on the shank.)*
2. *(Place the little finger in the shank, underneath the handle.)*
3. *(When cutting a subsection, position the razor on top of the subsection, the part facing you.)*

Method B

* 1. *(Open the razor until the handle and shank form a straight line.)*
  2. *(Place the thumb on the grip, and wrap the fingers around the handle.)*

1. Why is consistent tension important in haircutting? *(Consistent tension is important for achieving constant, even results in a haircut.)*
2. What steps can you take to ensure that you are using good posture and body positioning when cutting hair?
3. *(Position the client)*
4. *(Center your weight)*
5. *(Work in front of your section)*
6. List the hand positions for different cutting angles and when they are used.
   1. *(Cutting over your fingers—Used most often when cutting uniform or increasing layers)*
   2. *(Cutting below the fingers—Used when cutting a one-length bob or a heavier, graduated cut)*
   3. *(Cutting palm to palm—Used when cutting a vertical or diagonal line)*
7. What precautions should you take when handling sharp tools and instruments?
8. *(Always palm the shears and the razor when combing or parting hair.)*
9. *(Do not cut past the second knuckle when cutting below your fingers or when cutting palm to palm.)*
10. *(Take extra care when cutting around the ears.)\_*
11. *(Balance the shears by placing the tip of the index finger of your left hand (your right hand if right-handed) on the pivot screw and the knuckles of your left hand (or right hand) against the skin.)*
12. *(When learning to work with a razor, use a guard.)*
13. *(Take extra care when removing and disposing of razor blades.)*
14. Name the four basic haircuts.
15. *(Blunt)*
16. *(Graduated)*
17. *(Layers)*
18. *(Long layers)*
19. What is a weight line? *(A weight line is a visual line in the haircut where the ends of the hair hang together.)*
20. Describe the shape of a long-layered haircut. *(A long-layered haircut has shorter layers at the top and increasingly longer layers toward the perimeter.)*
21. List general haircutting tips.
22. *(Always take consistent and clean partings.)*
23. *(Take extra care when working in the crown and neckline.)*
24. *(Take extra care around the ears.)*
25. *(Always use consistent tension.)*
26. *(Pay attention to head position.)*
27. *(Maintain an even amount of moisture in the hair.)*
28. *(Always work with your guideline.)*
29. *(Always cross-check the haircut.)*
30. *(Use the mirror to see your elevation.)*
31. *(Check both sides.)*
32. *(Remember that curly hair shrinks more than straight hair.)*
33. Give some alternative names for the blunt cut. *(The blunt cut is also known as a bob, one-length, one-level, pageboy, or bowl haircut.)*
34. For a blunt cut, the client’s head should be in what position? *(When getting a blunt cut, a client’s head should be upright and straight.)*
35. What happens when a client’s head is improperly positioned for a blunt cut?
36. *(The line fails to fall as you cut it.)*
37. *(You create graduation where you intended none.)* \_\_
38. Outline the pre-service procedure for cleaning and disinfecting.
    1. *(Put on a fresh pair of gloves.)*
    2. *(Clean all tools and implements.)*
    3. *(Rinse away all traces of soap with warm, running water.)*
    4. *(Immerse cleaned implements in an appropriate disinfection container holding an EPA-registered disinfectant for the required time.)*
    5. *(Remove implements, avoiding skin contact, and rinse and dry tools thoroughly.*)
    6. *(Store disinfected implements in a clean, dry container until needed.*)
    7. *(Remove gloves, and thoroughly wash your hands with liquid soap.*)
    8. *(Rinse and dry your hands with a clean fabric or disposable towel.*)
39. Give the pre-service procedural steps for basic station setup.
    1. *(Clean your station and client chair with an approved disinfectant cleaner.)*
    2. *(Ensure that your disinfectant container is filled at least 20 minutes before the day’s first service.)*
    3. *(Collect all implements and professional products for the service, and bring them to your station.)*
40. Explain how a stylist would prepare for a service.
    1. *(Review the appointment schedule for the day, and resolve any potential time conflicts or challenges.)*
    2. *(Retrieve and review the client’s intake form.)*
    3. *(Organize yourself.)*
    4. *(Turn off all personal devices (e.g., cell phone, pager).)*
    5. *(Take a moment to clear your head of all personal concerns and issues.)*
    6. *(Wash your hands thoroughly before greeting your client.)*
41. Outline the procedure for greeting a client.
    1. *(Greet the client in the reception area with a warm smile and professional manner.)*
    2. *(Escort the client to the station, and invite her to sit.)*
    3. *(Perform a consultation before beginning the service.)*
42. Name the three main parts of the post-service procedure.
    1. *(Advise client and promote products.)*
    2. *(Schedule the next appointment and thank the client.)*
    3. *(Prepare the work area and implements for the next client.)*
43. Identify the implements and materials needed for the blunt cut with fringe.
    1. *(Cutting cape)*
    2. *(Cutting or styling comb)*
    3. *(Haircutting shears)*
    4. *(Neck strip)*
    5. *(Sectioning clips)*
    6. *(Shampoo and conditioner)*
    7. *(Shampoo cape)*
    8. *(Spray bottle with water)*
    9. *(Towels)*
    10. *(Wide-tooth comb)*
44. How should the hair be parted when cutting a blunt cut with fringe? *(Take a center part that runs from the front hairline to the nape, dividing the head in two.)*
45. Where do you begin a blunt haircut with fringe? *(Begin at the nape, on the left side if right-handed, and take a horizontal parting ¼ to ½ inch from the hairline, depending on hair density.)*
46. How should you create your guideline for a right-handed blunt cut with fringe? *(With the client’s head upright, comb the subsection in a natural fall from scalp to ends. With your dominant hand, comb the subsection again, stopping just above the cutting line. Make sure the comb is horizontal and just above the cutting line (desired length). Cut the subsection straight across against the comb, remembering to keep your shears horizontal and parallel to the floor. Repeat on the right side, using the length of your first subsection as a guide. Before moving on, check to make sure your cutting line is straight.)*
47. When cutting the crown area in a blunt cut with fringe, what should you pay close attention to? *(When cutting the crown area in a blunt cut with fringe, you should pay close attention to the natural fall of the hair and cut with little or no tension to match the guide.)*
48. When working left-handed, how should you match the sides of the blunt haircut with fringe to the back? *(Beginning on the left side, take a horizontal parting and part off a portion from the back area. Use it to cut the side guideline to match in length.)*
49. Discuss some danger areas with blunt cuts. *(When cutting a blunt cut, be aware of the crown area, sometimes called the danger zone, because this is where irregular growth patterns are most often found. Another danger zone is around the ears. Because they do not lie flat against the head, take special steps to keep an even cutting line and always work with very little or no tension in this area.)*
50. List tips for blunt haircuts.
51. *(Always cut with minimal or no tension.)*
52. *(Work with natural hair-growth patterns, keeping the client’s head upright.)*
53. *(Always comb a section twice before cutting.)*
54. *(Always maintain an even amount of moisture in the hair.)*
55. *(Pay close attention to growth patterns in the crown and hairline.)*
56. *(Take precautions to allow for the ears sticking out.)*
57. How can you maintain control and consistency while working through a uniform layered haircut? *(To maintain control and consistency while working through a uniform layered haircut, separate the sides from the back by parting the hair from the apex to the back of the ear. Work through the back areas first.)*
58. Describe the concept of increased layering. *(A long-layered haircut uses increased layering, which features progressively longer layers. Your guide is an interior one, beginning at the top of the head. All remaining hair is elevated 180 degrees to match this guide.)*
59. List the steps involved in completing a long-layered haircut left-handed.
60. *(Drape, shampoo, and condition the client’s hair as needed.)*
61. *(Escort the client to the styling chair, and secure a neck strip around the client’s neck.)*
62. *(Detangle the hair with a wide-tooth comb.)*
63. *(Part the hair into five cutting sections.)*
64. *(Begin at the top of the crown by taking a ½-inch subsection across the head. Comb straight up from the head form, and cut straight across.)*
65. *(Cut the second subsection.)*
66. *(Continue, using the previously cut subsection as your guideline to cut a new ½-inch subsection throughout the top section.)*
67. *(Match hair to guideline, and cut.)*
68. *(Continue working down the side, using ½-inch subsections until the hair no longer reaches the guide.)*
69. *(Repeat on the right side.)*
70. *(Complete the back sections.)*
71. *(Continue cutting, using ½-inch horizontal subsections and working from top to bottom until the hair no longer reaches the guideline.)*
72. *(Check to ensure that both sides are the same length.)*
73. What is important to remember when cutting curly hair? *(You must understand how curly hair behaves after it has been cut and dried. You will get very different results than when cutting straight hair.)*
74. Why should you use minimal tension when cutting curly hair? *(Use minimal tension and/or a wide-tooth comb when cutting curly hair to avoid cutting the hair shorter than desired.)*
75. What is the effect of using a razor on curly hair? *(Using a razor on curly hair weakens the cuticle and causes the hair to frizz.)*
76. What is meant by distribution? *(Distribution refers to where and how hair is moved over the head.)*
77. What factor determines whether hair in the bang area must blend with the rest of the haircut? *(The finished style dictates how the fringe or bang area is cut.)*
78. Differentiate between a shear cut and a razor cut. *(With shears, the ends of the hair are cut blunt. With a razor, the ends are cut at an angle, and the line is not blunt.)*
79. Why should you always use a new, sharp blade when razor cutting? *(Working with a dull blade is painful for the client and puts added stress on the hair.)*
80. List tips for cutting with a razor.
81. *(Check with your instructor before beginning the cut.)*
82. *(Always use a guard.)*
83. *(Always use a new blade.)*
84. *(Keep the hair wet.)*
85. *(Always work with the razor at an angle.)*
86. Slide cutting is useful for:
87. *(Removing length)*
88. *(Blending shorter lengths to longer ones)*
89. *(Texturizing)*
90. How is slide cutting accomplished? *(Slide cutting is accomplished by keeping the shears partially open as you slide along the edge of the section.*
91. The scissor-over-comb technique is generally used to:
92. *(Create very short tapers)*
93. *(Cut from an extremely short length to longer lengths)*
94. List the basic steps of the shears-over-comb technique.
95. *(Stand or sit directly in front of the section you are working on. The area you are cutting should be at eye level.)*
96. *(Place the comb, teeth first, into the hairline, and turn the comb so that the teeth are angled away from the head.)*
97. *(With the still blade of the scissor parallel to the spine of the comb, begin moving the comb up the head, continually opening and closing the thumb blade smoothly and quickly.)*
98. *(Angle the comb farther away from the head as you reach the area you are blending to avoid cutting into the length (weight).)*
99. Texturizing techniques can be used to:
100. *(Add volume)*
101. *(Remove volume)*
102. *(Make hair move)*
103. *(Blend one area into another)*
104. What tools are used for texturizing? *(Cutting shears, thinning shears, or a razor.)*
105. How do thinning shears remove weight from a haircut? *(Thinning shears remove weight from a haircut by removing weight from the ends or running shears-over-comb to blend the weight lines of finer hair textures.)*
106. What is the razor rotation technique used for? *(The razor rotation technique is used to soften the texture of an area and give direction to a haircut.)*
107. What are clippers? *(Clippers are electric or battery-operated tools that cut the hair by using two moving blades held in place by a metal plate with teeth)*
108. Identify the ways in which clippers can be used.
109. *(Without length guards to remove hair completely)*
110. *(Without length guards to taper hairlines, using the clipper-over-comb technique)*
111. *(With length guards)*
112. List all the tools to have on hand when clipper cutting.
113. *(Clippers)*
114. *(Length guard attachments)*
115. *(Haircutting shears)*
116. *(Thinning shears)*
117. *(Combs)*
118. How should you part the hair for a clipper cut? *(To part hair for a clipper cut, make a horseshoe parting about 2 inches below the apex of the head, beginning and ending at the front hairline.)\_*
119. Where and how should you begin the clipper cut? *(Start in the nape area, place the haircutting comb against the scalp, teeth up. Angle the comb against the scalp from 0 to 45 degrees, allowing for the natural contour of the head. Cut the hair that extends through the teeth of the comb.)\_\_*
120. How do you blend the sections with clippers? *(When using clipper, blend lengths over the curve of the head by cross-cutting horizontally, from side to side.)*
121. How should you determine the guideline for the length in the crown area? *(To determine the guideline for the length in the crown area, measure the distance between the eyebrows and the natural hairline.)*