



## PART B: Practicum Exam Overview

### PRACTICUM: PROCEDURE (PART 1)

#### Ear Impression Technique: Making the Impressions

**NOTE: The ear impression you make will be graded on its adequacy for a full shell ear mold for an 80 db HL flat hearing loss.**

- You should wash your hands in the specified restroom facilities prior to entering the room.
- A proctor will take you to the room where you will take the practicum exam. Exam candidates must bring all their own supplies necessary to make two ear impressions. If an exam candidate does not bring all necessary supplies to make two ear impressions, this will result in an automatic failure of the practicum portion (Part B) of the exam.
- You will be videotaped while performing the ear impression techniques. The raters and videographer may move around to ensure they have a good view of what you are doing.
- You will be asked to verbally confirm the following information on camera:
  1. You will be asked to inventory the box and confirm that everything belongs to you.
  2. You will be asked to confirm that you have read Part 1 of these instructions.
  3. You will be asked to state your Candidate ID number and today's date.  
*Note: Do not use your name or company name on video while instructing model. You must refer to yourself only by Candidate ID number during the exam.*
- Prior to beginning the procedure, you will put on gloves required for universal precautions. You may use gloves that you brought to the exam or the gloves provided in the exam room. *Note: Using antibacterial hand sanitizer will make the gloves difficult to put on and is no longer required when wearing gloves.*
- You will make TWO impressions, a right ear impression and a left ear impression on the same Model if both ears are cleared. Each ear impression should be made for a FULL-SHELL earmold.
- You are to instruct your Model and demonstrate all procedures for making both ear impressions, in accordance with Board-approved Practicum Scoring Guidelines posted on the website.
- When you have completed making your impressions, verbally announce, *"I have completed Part 1."* The camera will be turned off while the impression material sets.

**PRACTICUM: PROCEDURE (PART 2)**  
**Ear Impression Technique: Removal of the Impressions**

- When you determine that the impressions are ready to be removed, inform the proctors that you are ready to begin Part 2 before proceeding any further.
- You will be asked to verbally confirm the following information on camera:
  1. You will be asked to confirm that you have read Part 2 of these instructions.
  2. You will be asked to state your Candidate ID number and today’s date.
  3. You will then restate for the video camera that “the impressions are ready to be removed,” and proceed with Part 2.
- You are to instruct your Model and demonstrate all procedures for removing the impressions, in accordance with Board-approved Practicum Scoring Guidelines posted on the website.
- When you finish, verbally announce, “*I have completed Part 2.*” This will end the Procedure portion of the exam.
- The proctor will provide containers for your impressions and escort you to the ear impression evaluation room after you gather your practicum supplies.

**PRACTICUM: EAR IMPRESSION EVALUATION (PART 3)**

**Evaluation of stock ear impression**

- A proctor will provide you with instructions and have you answer “yes or no” on an answer sheet for Questions 1-10 about a Board-provided *non-human* ear impression (“stock mold”).

**Evaluation of the Candidates’ Ear Impressions**

- A proctor will provide you with instructions and a copy of the questions that two professionals will use to evaluate the ear impression you made.
- You will be given time to inspect both ear impressions and select only one of your impressions to submit for professional grading.
- You will not do a self-evaluation of the ear impressions you made. Your only evaluation will be to choose which impression you want to have graded.

**PRACTICUM: SCORING**

- The Practicum Scoring Guidelines provide details on scoring and passing criteria.