

Dental Assistant Practice Exam for Coronal Polishing and Dental Sealants

CORONAL POLISHING

1. Supervised nightguard bleaching:
 - a. is effective on extrinsic stains.
 - b. is effective on intrinsic stains.
 - c. is recommended for nonvital teeth.
 - d. Both A and B are correct.

2. Rubber cup polishing _____ recommended to remove intrinsic stains.
 - a. is
 - b. is not

3. Light stains on the tooth surface can be removed with which material?
 - a. Fine pumice
 - b. Superfine silex
 - c. Zirconium

4. The coronal polishing procedure is indicated:
 - a. prior to a prophylaxis.
 - b. prior to dental dam placement.
 - c. to polish a demineralized area.
 - d. All of the above.

5. The technique of polishing only those teeth with plaque or stain is called:
 - a. airbrasive technique.
 - b. generalized polishing.
 - c. incomplete process.
 - d. selective polishing.

6. Coronal polishing is not recommended for a patient with tuberculosis because the:
 - a. aerosol from the handpiece may spread the bacteria.
 - b. patient may have difficulty breathing.
 - c. procedure may cause bacteremia.
 - d. Both A and C are correct.

7. The prophyl angle is held in a _____ grasp.
 - a. palm
 - b. palm-thumb
 - c. pen

8. For coronal polishing, the recommended low-speed handpiece speed is _____ rpm.
 - a. 10,000
 - b. 20,000
 - c. 100,000
 - d. 2,000,000

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9. Tetracycline is an example of an _____ stain.
- extrinsic
 - intrinsic
10. A bristle brush should not be used on cementum or dentin because the surface is:
- easily stained by the abrasive.
 - sensitive to the abrasive.
 - soft and easily grooved.
 - Both A and C are correct.
11. Plaque and stain are removed from the interproximal areas with:
- an abrasive.
 - dental floss.
 - a rubber cup.
 - an explorer.
12. To avoid injury to the gingival tissue, the rubber cup stroke should be directed:
- away from the gingival tissue.
 - parallel to the gingival tissue.
 - toward the gingival tissue.
13. When moving the rubber polishing cup from one area to another you should use what type of motion?
- Patting
 - Sweeping
 - Wiping
 - Both A and C are correct.
14. The occlusal surfaces of the teeth are polished using a:
- bristle brush.
 - rubber cup.
 - toothbrush.
 - Both A and B are correct.
15. To polish the buccal surfaces of the maxillary left quadrant, the patient's head is turned _____ the operator.
- downward and away from
 - downward and toward
 - upward and away from
 - upward and toward
16. When polishing the lingual surfaces of the maxillary anterior, the operator would be seated at the _____ o'clock position.
- 6
 - 8 to 9
 - 10
 - 3

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17. When performing a coronal polish, the left-handed operator is seated at the _____ o'clock position.
- 1 to 2
 - 3 to 4
 - 8 to 9
 - 10 to 12
18. Teeth that have been properly polished:
- are glossy.
 - have a dull finish.
 - reflect light.
 - Both A and C are correct.
19. Which of the following is/are true when polishing the buccal surfaces of the maxillary right posterior sextant?
- Establish a fulcrum on the maxillary right incisors.
 - Have the patient tip his or her head up and slightly away from you.
 - Hold the dental mirror in your left hand.
 - All of the above.
20. The most common of the extrinsic stains found in children is:
- black line.
 - green.
 - orange.
 - orange.

DELIVERING DENTAL CARE

21. A dental assistant can acquire credentialing of an expanded function through a(n):
- accredited dental assisting program.
 - continuing education program.
 - state board-approved course.
 - All of the above.
22. Once a dental assistant has successfully completed his or her credentialing of an expanded function, the dental assistant can practice this specific function:
- within regions of the United States.
 - only in the state in which he or she lives.
 - in any state in which this function is legal.
23. When the dentist must be within the immediate surroundings as a dental assistant performs an expanded function, the dentist is in:
- standard supervision.
 - direct supervision.
 - professional supervision.
 - indirect supervision.
24. When completing a specific expanded function, the dental assistant must have knowledge in dental anatomy. Specifics in dental anatomy include:
- pits and fissures of occlusal surfaces.

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- b. proximal contacts of teeth.
 - c. tooth tissues.
 - d. All of the above.
25. When positioning the mouth mirror, it should be placed:
- a. perpendicular to the tooth.
 - b. parallel to the tooth.
 - c. mesial to the tooth.
 - d. distal to the tooth.
26. A finger rest is also called the:
- a. positioning.
 - b. expanded.
 - c. fulcrum.
 - d. stabilized.
27. In preparation for seating the patient in the dental chair, the:
- a. arm on the entrance side is raised.
 - b. chair is in the supine position.
 - c. headrest is removed.
 - d. All of the above.
28. The operator's zone for a right-handed dentist is from _____ o'clock.
- a. 2 to 4
 - b. 4 to 7
 - c. 7 to 12
 - d. 12 to 2
29. Dental instruments and materials are exchanged in the _____ zone.
- a. assistant's
 - b. operator's
 - c. transfer
 - d. static
30. When receiving a used instrument in a single-handed transfer, the assistant uses the _____ of the hand.
- a. last two fingers
 - b. palm
 - c. thumb, index, and middle finger
 - d. Both A and B are correct
31. Equipment positioned behind the patient's head is in the:
- a. operator zone.
 - b. transfer zone.
 - c. assistant's zone.
 - d. static zone.

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32. The correct method for transferring cotton pliers to the operator is by:
- pinching the beaks together and offering the handle first.
 - grasping the handle and offering the instrument with the beak positioned toward the floor.
 - holding the instrument in the center and offering the option of either end to the operator.
 - beak first.

DENTAL SEALANTS

33. The purpose of filler material in the sealant is to increase occlusal wear.
- True
 - False
34. An unfilled sealant material does not require an occlusal adjustment after placement because the natural wear is sufficient to establish occlusion.
- True
 - False
35. The primary cause of sealant retention failure is moisture contamination.
- True
 - False
36. Scientific studies have proved that properly placed dental sealants are _____ percent effective in protecting development of cavities in sealed tooth surfaces.
- 20
 - 80
 - 75
 - 100
37. Sealants are placed to:
- prevent decay on erupted teeth.
 - replace the use of topical fluorides.
 - stop the progression of decay.
 - provide interceptive orthodontics.
38. A pit-and-fissure sealant should not be placed if a tooth has:
- obvious dental decay.
 - deep pits and fissures.
 - proximal carious lesions.
 - Both A and C are correct.
39. What type of pit-and-fissure sealant material is supplied as a base and catalyst and must be mixed before placement?
- Self-cured
 - Light-cured
 - Both A and B are correct

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40. Sealants that release fluoride after polymerization:
- create a fluoride-rich layer at the base of the sealed groove.
 - prevent remineralization of incipient caries.
 - are not presently available.
 - All of the above.
41. Acid etchants used in the placement of dental sealants should avoid contact with:
- oral soft tissue.
 - eyes.
 - skin.
 - All of the above.
42. Which of the following can be considered general rules for the proper storage and use of dental sealant materials?
- Replace the cap on syringes and bottles immediately after use.
 - Store at room temperature.
 - Do not expose to light or air.
 - All of the above.

MOISTURE CONTROL

43. The central vacuum compressor provides the suction needed for the:
- air-water syringe.
 - high-volume evacuator (HVE).
 - saliva ejector.
 - Both B and C are correct.
44. When applying the dental dam for complete isolation of teeth, you will need to _____ the dam.
- ligate
 - contour
 - dry
 - invert
45. When cleaning the high-volume evacuator (HVE) system, the assistant's PPE should include protective eyewear and:
- mask.
 - examination gloves.
 - utility gloves.
 - Both A and C are correct.
46. For the anterior teeth, the bevel of the HVE tip should be positioned _____ where the dentist is working.
- distally from
 - mesially from
 - on the same side as
 - on the opposite side of

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47. The oral evacuator is held by the assistant in a _____ grasp.
- pen
 - reverse palm-thumb
 - thumb-to-nose
 - Both A and C are correct
48. The opening of the HVE tip should be positioned _____ the occlusal/incisal surface of the tooth when being prepared.
- even with
 - distal to
 - mesial to
 - in the vestibule on the same side as the preparation.
49. When placing the HVE tip for treatment of a mandibular tooth, a cotton roll may be placed under the tip to:
- aid in stabilizing the tip.
 - increase patient comfort.
 - prevent injury to the tissues.
 - All of the above.
50. Dental dam forceps are positioned with the beaks facing:
- in the direction of use.
 - toward the facial surface.
 - opposite the direction of use.
 - toward the lingual surface.
51. A plastic U-shaped dental dam frame is placed _____ the dam.
- on top of
 - beneath
 - on either side of
52. The dental dam clamp holds the _____ in place.
- dental materials
 - dental frame
 - dental dam
 - ligature
53. A dental dam clamp that has been tried in the mouth but not selected must be:
- discarded.
 - disinfected before reuse.
 - returned immediately to storage.
 - sterilized before reuse.
54. A universal dental dam clamp may be placed:
- anywhere in the mouth.
 - on either primary or permanent teeth.
 - on the same type of tooth in the opposing arch.
 - Both B and C are correct.

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55. To help the dental dam slide over the teeth and between the contacts, a lubricant is placed on the:
- teeth.
 - outer surface of the dam.
 - underside of the dam.
 - Both B and C are correct.
56. The purpose of inverting the dental dam is to:
- prevent saliva leakage.
 - remove excess material.
 - stabilize the dam.
 - reflect light.
57. To stabilize the last tooth opposite the anchor tooth, _____ may be used.
- dental floss
 - a piece of dental dam
 - another clamp
 - All of the above.
58. When isolating a tooth for a class V restoration, a(n) _____ clamp is used.
- cervical
 - incisal
 - universal
 - wingless
59. Before trying a clamp on a tooth, it is necessary to:
- disinfect the tooth.
 - measure the tooth.
 - tie a ligature on the clamp.
 - place the dental dam.
60. In removing the dental dam, the septum portion of the dam is:
- pulled free.
 - removed with a sea-saw motion.
 - cut.
 - lubricated and pulled free.
61. To protect oral tissue from trauma during a procedure, the HVE tip should rest on:
- gauze squares.
 - cotton rolls.
 - mouth mirror.
 - Dry angle.
62. The HVE tip is _____ after a single use.
- disinfected
 - sterilized
 - discarded
 - Both B and C are correct

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Answer Key

1. A	2. B	3. B	4. B
5. D	6. D	7. C	8. B
9. B	10. C	11. B	12. A
13. D	14. A	15. D	16. B
17. B	18. D	19. D	20. B
21. D	22. C	23. B	24. D
25. B	26. C	27. A	28. D
29. C	30. A	31. D	32. A
33. B	34. A	35. A	36. D
37. A	38. D	39. C	40. A
41. D	42. D	43. D	44. D
45. D	46. D	47. D	48. B
49. D	50. A	51. B	52. C
53. D	54. C	55. C	56. A
57. D	58. A	59. C	60. C
61. B	62. D		