2026 Job Task Outline for Certified Dental Technician Comprehensive Examination
For NBC Examinations beginning January 1, 2026

NBC
National Board for Certification in
Dental Laboratory Technology

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Dental Laboratory Industry Regulations and Scope of Practice *(8 - 10% of general knowledge questions on the Comprehensive examination are from this domain)*
Understanding Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)
Practice under Federal guidelines, OSHA, HIPAA (e.g., labeling and disclosure)
Interpret prescription and assess case viability
Practice within the scope of state dental practice act
Anatomy *(17 - 19% of general knowledge questions on the Comprehensive examination are from this domain)*
Identify occlusal requirements (e.g. bilateral posterior contacts, guidance, lingualized, anterior guidance)
Differentiate types of occlusion (canine guidance, group function, malocclusion)
Identify tooth morphology
Identify growth and development of dentition
Identify basic anatomic landmarks (e.g. soft tissue and hard tissue)
Identify muscles of mastication and facial expression
Identify cranial and facial skeletal anatomy
Identify tooth coding systems (e.g. Universal, International, and Palmer)
Terminology and Principles *(6 - 8% of general knowledge questions on the Comprehensive examination are from this domain)*
Define dental terms using appropriate terminology
Identify function and types of dental devices (e.g., appliances, prostheses, restorations)
Weights and measure
Articulation *(6 - 8% of general knowledge questions on the Comprehensive examination are from this domain)*
Identify uses, types and components of articulators (e.g. non-, semi-, fully-adjustable)
Identify mounting procedures (e.g. face bows, etc.)
Identify bite registrations and/or jaw relation records
Identify the types, processes, physical properties and handling characteristics of dental lab materials (e.g. Traditional or Digital) *(34 - 36% of general knowledge questions on the Comprehensive examination are from this domain)*
Gypsum products
Waxes
Metals and alloys
Plastics, resins and composites

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Separating materials
Fluxes and antifluxes
Alcohols (e.g., denatured and isopropyl)
Acids and neutralizers
Wetting agents
Wax Solvents
Abrasives and polishing agents
Laboratory gases
Investments (e.g. casting, pressing, soldering, refractory)
Impression materials
Ceramics (e.g., core and layering materials)
Cements
Impressions and Models (e.g., Traditional or Digital) *(10 - 12% of general knowledge questions on the Comprehensive examination are from this domain)*
Evaluate and validate scans and impressions
Understand model fabrication
Recognize contraindications for impression techniques and materials
Identify techniques for handling types of impressions
Identify custom tray parameters
Safe Working Practices *(12 - 14% of general knowledge questions on the Comprehensive examination are from this domain)*
Identify equipment maintenance and safety requirements and PPE (verification and validation)
Perform infection control procedures
Use and maintenance of Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
Identify hazardous waste disposal requirements (EPA)
Identification, handling and storage of hazardous materials (OSHA, Pictogram labeling)
Identify emergency preparedness (e.g., eye wash, fire blanket, first aid, fire extinguishers, exit plan)

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