

**GRADING CRITERIA FOR PRACTICAL EXAMINATION  
HISTOTECHNICIAN AND HISTOTECHNOLOGIST**

**STAINING**

- 001 No nuclear staining
- 002 Cells undefined
- 003 Cytoplasm not stained or no counterstain
- 004 Slide not graded because of extensive breakage
- 005 No stain contrast
- 006 Desired structure(s) not demonstrated
- 007 Nonspecific staining obscures desired structure
- 008 Very heavy precipitate obscures tissue
- 009 Tissue other than specified
- 010 Stain other than specified
- 011 Slide not received or slide unstained
- 012 Block not received
- 013 Tissue contains floaters or contaminant from other tissue source
- 014 Incorrectly/unlabeled slide
- 101 Nuclear stain extremely light
- 102 Nuclear stain extremely dark
- 103 Nuclear stain very muddy
- 104 Cytoplasm or counterstain extremely light
- 105 Cytoplasm or counterstain extremely dark
- 106 Contrast very poor
- 107 Desired structure extremely understained
- 108 Desired structure extremely overstained
- 109 Moderate nonspecific staining
- 110 Heavy precipitate
- 111 Staining very uneven
- 112 Poor differentiation
- 113 Autolysis extreme
- 114 Evaporated mounting medium obscures section
- 115 Desired structure difficult to locate
- 116 Poor tissue selection
- 117 Cytoplasm differentiation poor

If tissue specifications not met:

- 130 All layers not included
- 131 Cross-section not complete
- 132 Epithelium does not cover one entire surface
- 133 Minimum size requirement not met
- 134 Bone: cortex and/or hematopoietic marrow not included
- 135 Breast: ductal epithelium not included
- 136 Cerebellum: grey and white matter not included
- 137 Cervix: ectocervix not included
- 138 Cervix: endocervix not included
- 139 Heart: epicardium or endocardium not included
- 140 Kidney: cortex and/or medulla not included
- 141 Lung: bronchus with cartilage not included
- 142 Medulla Oblongata: inferior olivary nucleus not included
- 143 Ovary: cortical surface along one side not included
- 144 Pancreas: islets not included
- 145 Skeletal Muscle: longitudinal section not included
- 146 Testis: tunica albuginea and seminiferous tubules not included
- 147 Uterus: endometrium not included
- 148 Uterus: endometrium does not cover one entire surface

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**STAINING (continued)**

- 201 Nuclear stain slightly too light
- 202 Nuclear stain slightly too dark
- 203 Nuclear stain not crisp
- 204 Cytoplasm or counterstain slightly too light
- 205 Cytoplasm or counterstain slightly too dark
- 206 Cytoplasmic differentiation slightly deficient
- 207 Contrast slightly inadequate
- 208 Desired structure visible but slightly understained
- 209 Desired structure slightly overstained
- 210 Slight nonspecific staining
- 211 Light precipitate
- 212 Staining slightly uneven
- 213 Differentiation slightly inadequate
- 214 Dehydration inadequate
- 215 Mounting artifact
- 216 Tissue detachment or excessive digestion

**MICROTOMY**

- 401 Excessive albumin or gelatin residue
- 402 Slide not graded because of extensive breakage
- 403 Bubbles
- 404 Block not received
- 405 Contaminant from other tissue source
- 406 Extreme separation of tissue components
- 407 Floaters or debris
- 408 Folds in section
- 409 Fragmented, cracked, and/or torn section
- 410 Holes in section
- 411 Incomplete section
- 412 Knife lines
- 413 Micro chatter or venetian blind effect
- 414 Slide not received or slide unstained
- 415 Parched earth
- 416 Section variably thick and thin
- 417 Section too thick
- 418 Section too thin
- 419 Tissue other than specified
- 420 Wavy section
- 421 Incorrectly/unlabeled slide

**FIXATION/PROCESSING**

- 501 Autolysis
- 502 Excessive bone dust
- 503 Slide not graded because of extensive breakage
- 504 Excessive decalcification
- 505 Under decalcification
- 506 Incomplete dehydration, clearing or infiltration
- 507 Electrocautery
- 508 Excessive heat used during processing

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**FIXATION/PROCESSING (continued)**

- 509 Inappropriate processing for a fat stain
- 510 Incomplete or poor fixation
- 511 Poor freezing technique
- 512 Improper orientation
- 513 Nuclear bubbling
- 514 Slide not received or slide unstained
- 515 Block not received
- 516 Formalin pigment, mercury pigment and/or chrome deposits
- 517 Shrinkage of cells
- 518 Tissue other than specified
- 519 Incorrectly/unlabeled slide