



Bartending License

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Practice Questions

Try all 30 first, then check the answer key at the back.

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1. What is the minimum legal drinking age in the United States?

- A. 21 years old
- B. 18 years old
- C. 19 years old
- D. 20 years old

2. At which Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level is a person legally considered impaired for driving in most U.S. states?

- A. 0.05%
- B. 0.04%
- C. 0.08%
- D. 0.10%

3. A patron alternates between crying and laughing within a short period without a clear trigger. This pattern is BEST described as:

- A. Normal social drinking behavior
- B. Emotional lability caused by alcohol's effect on the limbic system
- C. A sign the patron needs medical attention only for a mental health crisis
- D. Evidence that the patron has not consumed enough alcohol to be impaired

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4. A customer presents a valid-looking foreign passport as proof of age. What should the bartender do?

- A. Refuse service — only domestic IDs are accepted
- B. Accept it only if the customer speaks English
- C. Ask for a second form of ID regardless
- D. Examine it carefully; if genuine and the customer is clearly 21+, it may be accepted



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5. What does the term 'mise en place' mean in a bar context?

- A. Everything in its place, set up and ready before service
- B. A French cocktail recipe technique
- C. The practice of cleaning glassware before opening
- D. A method for counting cash at the end of a shift

6. Which spirit forms the base of a classic Margarita?

- A. Tequila
- B. Vodka
- C. Rum
- D. Gin

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7. In the United States, what is the minimum legal drinking age?

- A. 21
- B. 18
- C. 19
- D. 20

8. How long should a bartender wash their hands with soap and water before handling food or drinks?

- A. At least 20 seconds
- B. At least 5 seconds
- C. At least 10 seconds
- D. At least 30 seconds

9. What grain is primarily used to make Scotch malt whisky?

- A. Malted barley
- B. Corn
- C. Rye
- D. Wheat

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10. A customer says they are 20 years old. What should you do before serving them alcohol?

- A. Serve them if they look mature enough
- B. Ask a coworker to decide
- C. Refuse service since they are under 21
- D. Serve them beer but not liquor

11. A person with a BAC between 0.02% and 0.05% is MOST likely to exhibit which of the following effects?

- A. Slurred speech and loss of balance
- B. Slight euphoria and lowered inhibitions
- C. Nausea and potential blackout
- D. Severe motor impairment

12. What is the formula for calculating 'usage' of a spirit during an inventory period?

- A. Closing inventory + purchases
- B. Opening inventory + purchases – closing inventory
- C. Closing inventory – opening inventory
- D. Purchases – waste

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13. Which of the following IDs should a bartender REFUSE to accept?

- A. An expired driver's license
- B. A U.S. military ID
- C. A U.S. passport
- D. A state-issued non-driver ID card

14. Which type of ice is best suited for shaking cocktails?

- A. Crushed ice
- B. Pebble ice
- C. Large cube or block ice
- D. Dry ice



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15. A Cosmopolitan is traditionally served in which glass?

- A. Highball
- B. Cocktail (martini) glass
- C. Rocks glass
- D. Collins glass

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16. A customer presents an ID that appears to be expired. What should you do?

- A. Accept it if the photo matches
- B. Accept it since the person looks old enough
- C. Refuse service because an expired ID is not valid proof of age
- D. Ask the customer to sign a waiver

17. A bartender notices an open cut on their hand. What is the BEST course of action before continuing to work?

- A. Continue working since alcohol kills bacteria
- B. Cover the wound with a waterproof bandage and wear a glove
- C. Wrap the wound with a paper towel temporarily
- D. Wash the cut with bleach solution

18. In what type of cask must bourbon be aged?

- A. Used oak barrels
- B. New charred oak containers
- C. Sherry casks
- D. Recharred used barrels

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19. Which of the following is universally accepted as a primary form of ID to verify age at a bar?

- A. A library card
- B. A state-issued driver's license
- C. A gym membership card
- D. A student ID from a private college



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20. At approximately what BAC level does the risk of respiratory depression and potential death become significant?

- A. 0.10%
- B. 0.15%
- C. 0.25%
- D. 0.35%

21. Dram shop laws primarily hold which party liable for damages caused by an intoxicated patron?

- A. The intoxicated patron only
- B. The vehicle manufacturer
- C. The alcohol-serving establishment and/or server
- D. The local municipality

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22. When setting up a speed rail (speed rack), what is the primary organizing principle?

- A. Alphabetical order by spirit name
- B. Most frequently used spirits placed closest to the bartender's dominant hand
- C. Spirits grouped by country of origin
- D. Spirits arranged by price from lowest to highest

23. What are the three core ingredients of a Classic Daiquiri?

- A. Rum, orange juice, sugar
- B. Rum, lime juice, orange liqueur
- C. Rum, lime juice, sugar syrup
- D. Rum, lemon juice, honey

24. Which of the following is generally an acceptable form of ID for age verification when purchasing alcohol?

- A. A library card
- B. A government-issued driver's license
- C. A student ID card
- D. A gym membership card

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25. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable reason for a bartender to be excluded from working around beverages and food?

- A. Vomiting within the past 24 hours
- B. Diagnosed with Hepatitis A
- C. Active diarrhea
- D. A mild headache with no other symptoms

26. Which Scottish whisky region is known for producing heavily peated, medicinal-style whiskies?

- A. Speyside
- B. Highlands
- C. Islay
- D. Lowlands

27. Which document is NOT an acceptable form of identification for age verification at a bar?

- A. U.S. passport
- B. State-issued ID card
- C. U.S. military ID
- D. Store loyalty card

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28. Which physical sign is one of the MOST common and easily observable indicators of intoxication?

- A. Increased muscle tension
- B. Slurred speech
- C. Rapid blinking
- D. Decreased appetite

29. A catering company wants to serve alcohol at private events but not at a fixed location. What type of permit would they most likely need?

- A. Beer-and-wine license
- B. Full off-premise license
- C. Temporary or special event permit
- D. Manufacturer's license



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30. What is the recommended temperature range for a bar's glass-chilling freezer?

- A. 32°F to 40°F (0°C to 4°C)
- B. 20°F to 25°F (-7°C to -4°C)
- C. 45°F to 55°F (7°C to 13°C)
- D. 0°F to 10°F (-18°C to -12°C)



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. A — 21 years old

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 requires all states to set the minimum legal drinking age at 21. Serving alcohol to anyone under 21 is a federal and state violation.

2. C — 0.08%

The legal limit for driving under the influence (DUI) in most U.S. states is a BAC of 0.08%. At this level, coordination and judgment are significantly impaired.

3. B — Emotional lability caused by alcohol's effect on the limbic system

Emotional lability (rapid, exaggerated mood shifts) is caused by alcohol's disruption of the limbic system. It is an important sign of significant intoxication requiring the bartender to stop service.

4. D — Examine it carefully; if genuine and the customer is clearly 21+, it may be accepted

A valid foreign passport is a government-issued photo ID and is generally accepted. The bartender should inspect it for authenticity and confirm the birth date indicates the customer is at least 21.

5. A — Everything in its place, set up and ready before service

Mise en place is a French culinary term meaning 'everything in its place.' In a bar, it refers to pre-shift preparation — stocking garnishes, glassware, ice, and tools so service can run smoothly.

6. A — Tequila

A Margarita is built on tequila, combined with triple sec and lime juice. Vodka, rum, and gin each anchor different cocktail families.

7. A — 21

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 requires all states to set the legal drinking age at 21. Serving anyone under 21 is a federal and state offense.

8. A — At least 20 seconds

The CDC and FDA Food Code both require at least 20 seconds of vigorous hand-washing with soap to effectively remove pathogens. Shorter durations do not adequately eliminate bacteria and viruses.

9. A — Malted barley

Scotch malt whisky must be made from 100% malted barley. Corn, rye, and wheat are used in other whisky styles such as bourbon and rye whiskey.

10. C — Refuse service since they are under 21

The legal drinking age in all U.S. states is 21. Anyone who is 20 must be refused alcoholic beverages regardless of appearance or drink type.

11. B — Slight euphoria and lowered inhibitions

At low BAC levels (0.02–0.05%), a person typically feels slight euphoria, relaxation, and lowered inhibitions. More severe symptoms like slurred speech and motor impairment appear at higher BAC levels.



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12. B — Opening inventory + purchases – closing inventory

Usage = Opening Inventory + Purchases – Closing Inventory. This formula accounts for what was in stock, what was received, and what remains to determine how much was actually consumed.

13. A — An expired driver's license

An expired ID is no longer valid proof of age or identity. Military IDs, U.S. passports, and current state IDs are all acceptable government-issued photo identification.

14. C — Large cube or block ice

Large cube or block ice is ideal for shaking because it chills efficiently without melting too fast, preventing over-dilution. Crushed and pebble ice melt quickly and dilute drinks too much during a shake.

15. B — Cocktail (martini) glass

The Cosmopolitan is strained and served up in a chilled cocktail (martini) glass, which showcases its clear pink color and keeps it cold.

16. C — Refuse service because an expired ID is not valid proof of age

An expired ID is not considered valid proof of age. You must refuse service because you cannot legally accept expired identification when verifying a customer's age.

17. B — Cover the wound with a waterproof bandage and wear a glove

Open cuts can harbor *Staphylococcus aureus*, which can contaminate drinks. A waterproof bandage plus a single-use glove prevents contamination and protects the wound while allowing the bartender to work safely.

18. B — New charred oak containers

U.S. law requires bourbon to be aged in new charred oak containers. This gives bourbon its distinctive vanilla and caramel character.

19. B — A state-issued driver's license

A state-issued driver's license bears a photo, date of birth, and government security features, making it a universally accepted primary ID. Non-government cards lack the necessary authentication features.

20. D — 0.35%

At BAC levels of 0.35% and above, the risk of respiratory depression, loss of consciousness, and death becomes significant. This level represents a life-threatening emergency.

21. C — The alcohol-serving establishment and/or server

Dram shop acts create civil liability for bars, restaurants, and servers who negligently serve alcohol to visibly intoxicated persons or minors who then cause injury to third parties.

22. B — Most frequently used spirits placed closest to the bartender's dominant hand

Speed rails are organized so the most commonly ordered spirits are within the quickest reach of the bartender's dominant hand, minimizing movement and maximizing service speed during a rush.

23. C — Rum, lime juice, sugar syrup

The Classic Daiquiri contains white rum, fresh lime juice, and simple syrup (sugar syrup) — nothing more. Orange liqueur is found in variations like a Hemingway Daiquiri.

24. B — A government-issued driver's license

A government-issued driver's license contains a photo, date of birth, and an official seal, making it a reliable



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and widely accepted form of age verification. Non-government IDs typically lack security features.

25. D — A mild headache with no other symptoms

A mild headache alone does not indicate a communicable illness that can be transmitted through food or beverages. The other conditions—vomiting, Hepatitis A, and diarrhea—are all FDA Food Code exclusion or restriction triggers.

26. C — Islay

Islay is famous for heavily peated whiskies with distinctive smoky, medicinal, and maritime character. Distilleries like Laphroaig, Ardbeg, and Lagavulin are located there.

27. D — Store loyalty card

Store loyalty cards are not government-issued documents and contain no date of birth or verifiable security features. Passports, state IDs, and military IDs are all government-issued and accepted.

28. B — Slurred speech

Slurred speech is one of the most easily recognizable physical signs of intoxication. Alcohol impairs the motor coordination needed for clear articulation.

29. C — Temporary or special event permit

A temporary or special event permit allows alcohol service at specific events and locations not covered by a permanent on-premise license. This is the standard permit for caterers and event organizers.

30. D — 0°F to 10°F (-18°C to -12°C)

A glass-chilling freezer is typically kept between 0°F and 10°F (-18°C to -12°C) to frost glassware quickly without forming excessive condensation that could water down drinks.



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