Sample Templates and Questions from the National Board of Medical Examiners (2002)

1. A (patient description) has a (type of injury and location). Which of the following structures is most likely to be affected?
2. A (patient description) has (history findings) and is taking (medications). Which of the following medications is the most likely cause of his (one history, PE or lab finding)?
3. A (patient description) has (abnormal findings). Which [additional] finding would suggest/suggests a diagnosis of (disease 1) rather than (disease 2)?
4. A (patient description) has (symptoms and signs). These observations suggest that the disease is a result of the (absence or presence) of which of the following (enzymes, mechanisms)?
5. A (patient description) follows a (specific dietary regime). Which of the following conditions is most likely to occur?
6. A (patient description) has (symptoms, signs, or specific disease) and is being treated with (drug or drug class). The drug acts by inhibiting which of the following (functions, processes)?
7. A (patient description) has (abnormal findings). Which of the following (positive laboratory results) would be expected?
8. (Time period) after a (event such as trip or meal with certain foods), a (patient or group description) became ill with (symptoms and signs). Which of the following (organisms, agents) is most likely to be found on analysis of (food)?
9. Following (procedure), a (patient description) develops (symptoms and signs). Laboratory findings show (findings). Which of the following is the most likely cause?
10. A (patient description) dies of (disease). Which of the following is the most likely finding on autopsy?
11. A patient has (symptoms and signs). Which of the following is the most likely explanation for the (findings)?
12. A (patient description) has (symptoms and signs). Exposure to which of the (toxic agents) is the most likely cause?
13. Which of the following is the most likely mechanism of the therapeutic effect of this (drug class) in patients with (disease)?
14. A patient has (abnormal findings), but (normal findings). Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?
15. Which of the following is (abnormal)?
   - Options sets could include sites of lesions; list of nerves; list of muscles; list of enzymes; list of hormones; types of cells; list of neurotransmitters; list of toxins, molecules, vessels, spinal segments.
16. Which of the following findings is most likely?
   - Options sets could include list of laboratory results; list of additional physical signs; autopsy results; results of micro-scopic examination of fluids, muscle or joint tissue; DNA analysis results; serum levels.
17. Which of the following is the most likely cause?
   - Options sets could include list of underlying mechanisms of the disease; medications that might cause side effects; drugs or drug classes; toxic agents; hemodynamic mechanisms, viruses, metabolic defects.
18. Which of the following should be administered?
   - Options sets could include drugs, vitamins, amino acids, enzymes, hormones.
19. Which of the following is defective/deficient/nonfunctioning?
   - Options sets could include list of enzymes, feedback mechanisms, endocrine structures, dietary elements, vitamins.
20. Given the pedigree, what is the likelihood that the next child (specify gender) will have the disease?