

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?*